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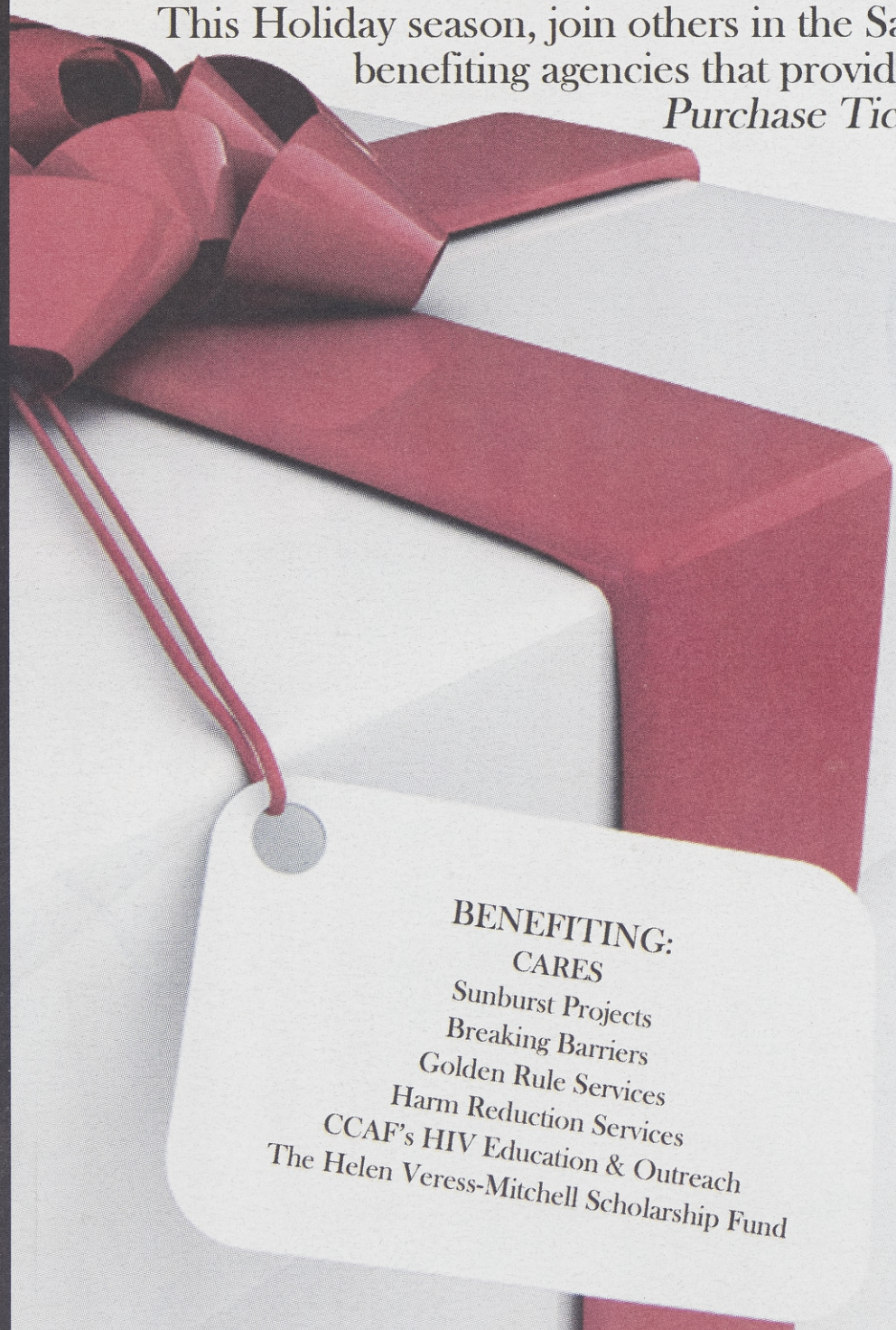

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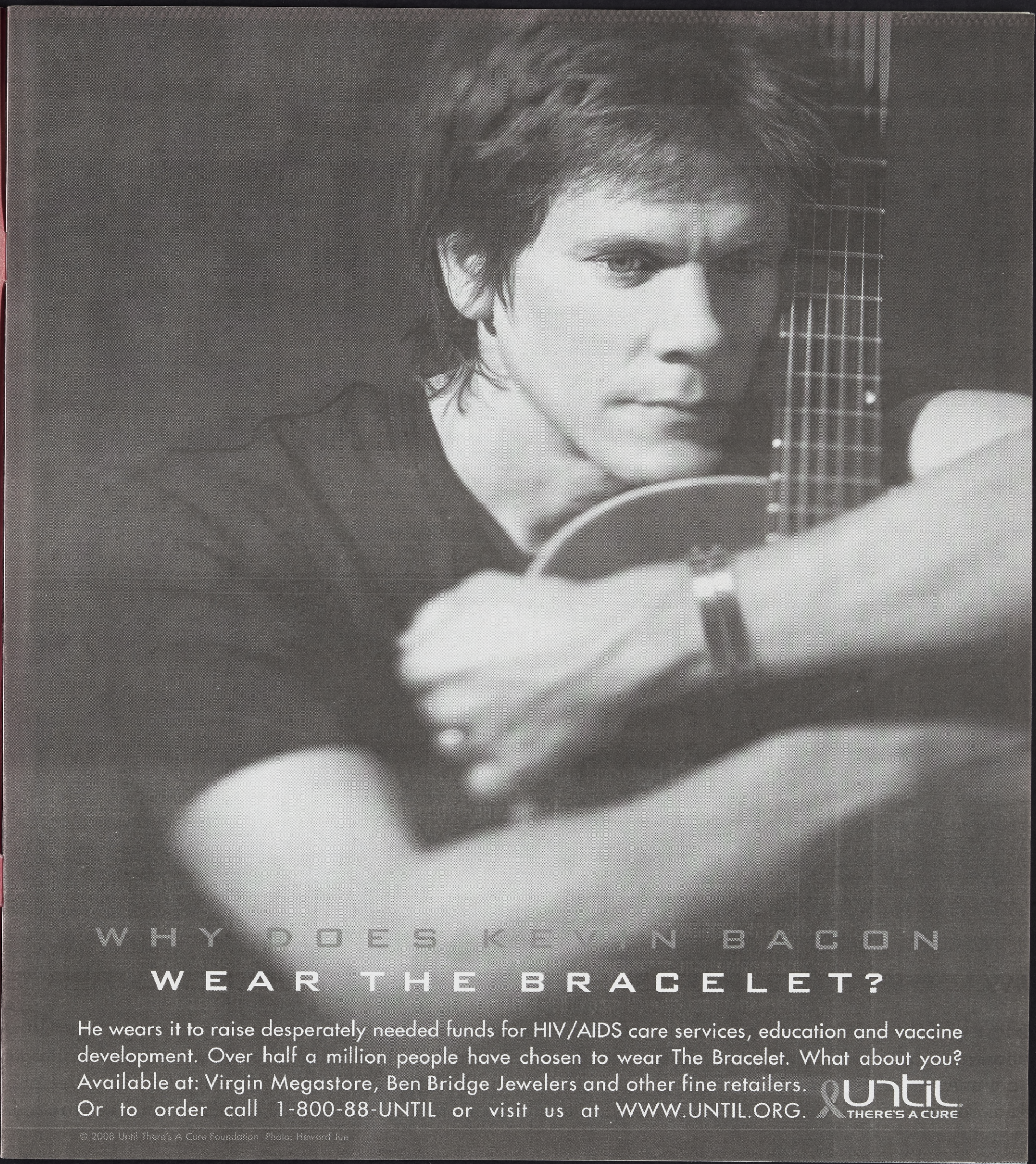
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until
THERE'S A CURE
© 2008 Until There's A Cure Foundation Photo: Heward Jue

MATTHEW BURLINGAME HAS BEEN THE EDITORIAL DIRECTOR OF MGW FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS. HE IS AN AWARD WINNING JOURNALIST AND PLAYWRIGHT AND HAS WORKED WITH, AND WRITTEN FOR MANY PUBLICATIONS IN SACRAMENTO OVER THE PAST 12 YEARS.

EDITOR@MGWNEWS.COM

Well, we did it. We survived another year. Seems like we were worrying about the Y2K virus, then terrorist attacks amid fireworks only last year—not almost a decade ago. But now we are facing 2009 which already promises amazing ups and frightening downs.

2008 was predicted by some to be a year of sickness. From my perspective that was an accurate prediction. Most everyone I know has had above average health issues that they have had to deal with this past year, including myself. But none compares to the sickness of our economy.

A number of times last year I wrote about the economy and the coming recession which was often was met with rolled eyes and exasperated sighs. Now, here we are. No, I won't be saying, "I told you so." I wanted to be proven wrong.

But never fear! Another stimulus package will soon be in hand! Just in time to use it to pay back the last one, as many didn't realize it was merely a loan against the refunds we would have gotten this year. What? You don't get refunds? Dude, you're screwed. Thank you Mr. President.

Many feel just the promise of Change President Elect Obama will bring to our country will be enough to stimulate and level out the economy. I hope this is the case. I for one want to see if Obama can deliver the change he promises.

But those of us who have been gifted Louise Hay Desk Calendars through the years know that change, true change, starts with us. We can't just vote someone into office and then stand there staring at him like a trained monkey expecting him to perform miracles.

We took a stand this year showing the American political system, our politicians and indeed the world, that we the people are indeed interested in our government and our country. We did this by placing a man who when starting out seemed to have a snowball's chance in hell at making it to the top in the white house.

Now we need to show these people that we also want to be involved in shaping the future of our country. To do this, we need to send a huge wake up call by always speaking our opinions, offering constructive ideas and solutions and then being part of their follow through. We need to not just make our voices heard, but we need to put our bodies in action.

If Obama and his administration are what they pledge themselves to be, we finally have an administration that will listen to the people. So let's keep our voices speaking loudly.

This year also brought we Californians the high of same-sex marriage, and the low of having a narrow margin of bigots vote to take those rights away. If that wasn't bad enough, now they are trying to nullify those 18,000+ same sex marriages that are still being legally recognized.

These viscous attacks on our families are reprehensible and send a clear message that these religious extremists will stop at nothing to push their agenda of hate until we are all on our way to concentration camps. These "family" based religious groups are becoming nothing short of cultural terrorists.

We have spoken up, acted up and made it clear that it won't be as easy to silence our community as they might think. In 2009 we *will* have out rights reinstated and they will stick. We must believe that!

Yes, for many of us, we are happy to leave 2008 behind with a great hope for a better year in 2009. But let's not forget the good things that happened to us this year and hope that the negative will always be used to propel us into a better and brighter future and remind us to never stop fighting for equality.

Equality. That's all we want. No more, no less.

Happy New Year.

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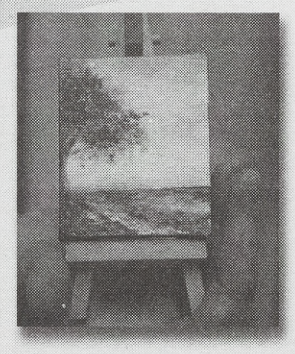

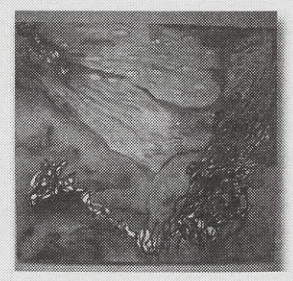

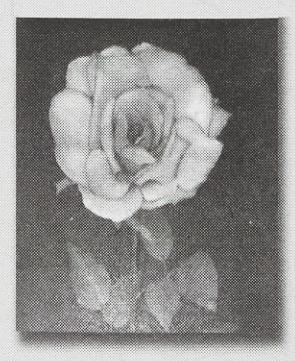

BOYCOTT LIST

THIS IS A LIST OF BUSINESSES IN THE SACRAMENTO AREA THAT ALLEDGEDLY ENDORSED OR DONATED FUNDING TO THE "YES ON 8" CAMPAIGN. THESE BUSINESSES ACTIVELY FOUGHT FOR THE PERMANENT REMOVAL OF OUR COMMUNITY'S MARRIAGE RIGHTS THAT HAD BEEN FULLY RECOGNIZED IN 2008 BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. DO NOT LET YOUR MONEY SUPPORT THEIR HATE.

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CENTURY DOWNTOWN PLAZA 7 (SACRAMENTO)
CENTURY 16 GREENBACK LN. (SACRAMENTO)
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IF ANY OF THE BUSINESSES LISTED ABOVE ARE LISTED INCORRECTLY OR UNFAIRLY, OR DID NOT DONATE FUNDS TO THE "YES ON 8" CAMPAIGN, PLEASE CONTACT MGW NEWSMAGAZINE IMMEDIATELY SO THIS INFORMATION CAN BE CORRECTED. IT IS OUR INTENTION TO PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION FOR THOSE CHOOSING TO FINANCIALLY BOYCOTT BUSINESSES WHO SUPPORTED "YES ON 8". WE DO NOT ADVOCATE VIOLENCE OR VANDALISM OF ANY KIND, NOR CONDONE ANY MALICIOUS ACTION OR BEHAVIOR TOWARD ANY BUSINESS OR INDIVIDUAL REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL POSITION ON PROP. 8.

ANNIVERSARY NOTES

I just finished reading the 30th Anniversary edition of MGW cover to cover. I think I learned more gay and local history just in the last few hours than I have in the last 5 years of being out.

Just turning 22, I am amazed to know there was so much going on with my community before I was even close to being born. I want to thank MGW for giving me a feeling of connection and history to the Sacramento gay community.

I plan to keep this issue forever and maybe when I feel disconnected, it will remind me there were lots of people working to make my life better before I even had a life. Thank you!

Matthew Notary
Modesto, CA

Excellent issue. I'm glad to see MGW looking better than it has in a long time. I hope you have another 30 years of servicing the community

Carol L.
Sacramento, CA

Congratulations on 30 years. It and I came out the same year. 30 years later, I got married to my beautiful wife and we now read it together. Thank you to the staff for their always hard work.

Christy W.
Sacramento, CA

CALL FOR SHORT FILMS

The Consortium for Women and Research and Film Studies at UC Davis are requesting artists' film submissions for the 4th annual Davis Feminist Film Festival. Selected entries will be shown in the festival in Davis, California on April 16th & 17th, 2009. Films will be chosen based on their artistic quality, as well as their ability to address social justice and gender issues. Filmmakers and media topics that are local and/or typically underrepresented in mainstream media are strongly encouraged to apply. The deadline for submissions is February 12th, 2009.

For more details & submission guidelines, go to http://femfilmfest.ucdavis.edu or contact us at (530) 752-8205 or femfilmfest@ucdavis.edu

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Matthew Burlingame
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Nathan Feldman
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Rivendell Media
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WRITERS
Erin Von Ohlsen
Sonya Cox, Richard Wagner, Ph.D
Boyce Hinman, Brian Judd,
Michael Gorman, David R. Shorey
Tom Swanner, Jerry Sloan
Forrest Schroeder-Einwiller
Rev. Doretha Williams-Flournoy
Chris Crain, Matthew Burlingame
Darnell Stephenson, Julie Fray

PHOTOGRAPHERS
West Ramsey, Mila Pavlin, Rachel Valley
Kiny McCarrick, David Dilley, Jayna Pavlin,
Nathan Feldman, Aaron Feldman

ASSOCIATIONS
Nat. Gay & Lesbian Journalist Assoc.
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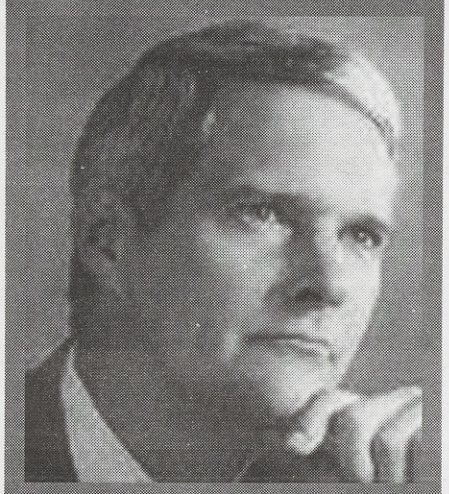


JAMES P. GRAY IS A JUDGE OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, THE AUTHOR OF WEARING THE ROBE: THE ART AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF JUDGING IN TODAY'S COURTS (SQUARE ONE PRESS, 2008). HIS WEBSITE IS WWW.JUDGEJIMGRAY.COM.

GOVERNMENT BELONGS TO US

In October 2007, I wrote a column about the California Highway Patrol's 11-99 Foundation. When a person donated a minimum of $5,000, he or she was given a license plate frame and a membership card that (coincidentally) could be placed next to that person's driver's license.

Of course, the strong implication was that the donor would receive favorable treatment from the CHP out on the state's highways. And I cited in the column some occasions on which that favorable treatment had actually been given.

I sent a copy of the column to then-CHP Commissioner Mike Brown, along with a handwritten letter, requesting him to investigate the situation, and possibly to discontinue this practice. The reason for that request, of course, was that our system of justice in traffic court and everywhere else should be entirely free from even the appearance of any favoritism.

I received no response to my letter. So a few months later in another column I reported that I had not received a response from Brown, and then sent him a second letter, which again was met only by silence.

But about four months thereafter I learned that the CHP had a new commissioner named Joe Farrow, so I sent him a letter, along with an explanation of my request and a copy of the previous columns. Within three weeks, I received a telephone call from his secretary inviting me to have lunch with the new commissioner.

At that lunch, Farrow told me he had taken action in two ways.

First, he issued a strong statement to his troops that they were not to be influenced by 11-99 Foundation membership in exercising their sound discretion about whether to issue traffic citations or anything else.

Second, he had met with the officials of the 11-99 Foundation and was successful in obtaining their promise to cease the distribution of the license plate frames and identification cards by this coming January. In addition, he had also instigated a movement to recall the license plate frames and ID cards that have already been issued.

This is government at its best, and that was the laudatory message I gave to Farrow. Government had been responsive, responsible, and professional, and had acted with integrity.

Why am I writing about this experience? Because it demonstrates that we can and do have an influence in our government — at all levels. In fact, if we are persistent, there is little that we cannot accomplish, at least in the long run.

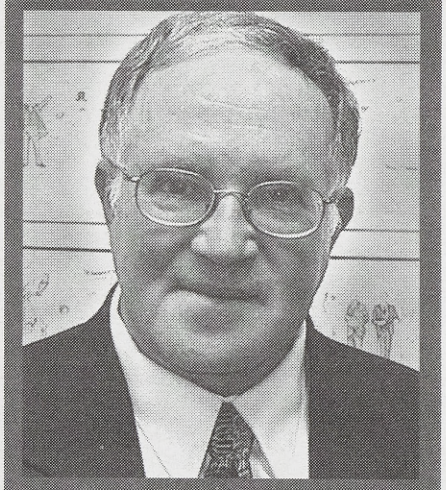
With government, like many other situations in life, familiarity does not breed contempt; it breeds access. Another way of saying this is that government is a "contact sport." So all of us should make advocacy a regular part of our everyday lives. Our form of government depends on it.

Many elected officials have told me that when they receive individually written letters, they attach great significance and weight to them. In fact, they actually have a formula that for every personalized letter they receive, they feel that at least 35 other people in their district probably have the same views. So don't be bashful about writing those letters.

Of course, your letters will have a great deal more chance of influencing elected officials if you can actually vote for those officials. This means that a letter you send to your own member of Congress will be much more likely to have influence than a letter to a member outside of your district.

But to take this action a step further, getting a group of 10 to 15 or more voters in your elected official's district who are united and vocal about a certain issue would increase the odds that the person would not only respond to you but even actually meet with you on the subject at a place of your choosing.

Relationships are power. Whatever your issues are you can and should turn your passions into that power. Why? Because if we do not have government at its best, we only have ourselves to blame.



FRED E. FOLDVARY TEACHES ECONOMICS AT SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY, WHERE HE IS ALSO AN ASSOCIATE OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTE. HIS MAIN AREAS OF RESEARCH INCLUDE PUBLIC FINANCE, PUBLIC CHOICE, SOCIAL ETHICS, AND THE ECONOMICS OF REAL ESTATE. HIS BOOKS INCLUDE SOUL OF LIBERTY, BEYOND NEOCLASSICAL ECONOMICS, PUBLIC GOODS AND PRIVATE COMMUNITIES, DICTIONARY OF FREE-MARKET ECONOMICS, AND (CO-EDITED) THE HALF-LIFE OF POLICY RATIONALES.

CA.LP.ORG

WHY THE CRASH OF 2008 IS NOT A MARKET FAILURE

Government officials, media commentators, and even some economists are leaping to the mistaken conclusion that the financial waterfall of 2008 is a colossal market failure. We hear that the free market went wild because of too much deregulation. But by focusing too narrowly on regulations, critics ignore the wider issue of governmental intervention. Economic analysis shows that it was interventions that caused not only this recession but all past panics and depressions. The long-term cure for the boom-bust cycle is a truly free market, not ever more intervention.

The Crash of 2008 was easily predictable by anyone who understands the economics of business cycles. As an economist, I wrote a number of articles on the coming crash before 2008, including two columns for the Libertarian Perspective.

In my column of October 16, 2007, I wrote, "There is nothing the [Federal Reserve] can do to prevent the next recession" that I predicted would occur in 2008. The low interest rates accommodated by the Fed after 2001 sparked a real estate boom that burst in 2006, which was inevitably followed by falling land values and a crash of the financial derivatives based on mortgages.

I also explained that "The real estate boom gets escalated by another government intervention: the tax system." Government works and services such as freeways, streets, parks, fire protection, security, and schooling make land more productive and attractive. This gain in land rent and land value is a subsidy to landowners, because these services are mostly paid for by taxes on goods, wages, and enterprise. Land speculation exploits the rise in land values during an economic boom, causing an even greater and unsustainable escalation of real estate prices.

The way to prevent the boom-bust is to prevent the financial and tax interventions of government. We should abolish the Federal Reserve and let the money supply and interest rates be set by a truly free market, not a governmental monetary authority. We must also replace punitive taxes on labor, goods, and enterprise either by privatizing schools, streets, and other governmental works, or by eliminating the land-value subsidy. Third, we should take back the rent generated by government services by having landowners pay an assessment on their land value.

After the transition to this tax shift, a payment based on land rent or site value would not hurt even landowners, as the purchase price of land would fall to that level where the payment is offset by not having to pay the same amount in mortgage interest. That's because a levy on land value constitutes an elimination of a government subsidy, rather than an imposed cost on the owners.

Those who read my column of August 2, 2005 were warned of the coming crash well in advance. I wrote, "House prices will plunge, defaults will crash the banks, and many will be unemployed. California's public finances will again be in crisis."

In addition to interventions and the tax system, the federal government sponsored and guaranteed the secondary market in mortgages, in which Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac bought loans from banks, which could then make more mortgage loans. The federal and state governments promoted home ownership with loan guarantees, tax breaks, subsidies, and regulations that promoted home buying by risky low-income folks. Government is supposed to protect people from fraud, yet it allowed massive deception in derivatives based on mortgages. Fraud is not a market failure but rather the failure of government to prevent such acts of theft.

Even worse, government guarantees and bailouts (such as with the Savings and Loans in the 1980s) create the expectation, now fulfilled, that government will rescue banks, insurance companies, brokerage firms, and other institutions that are "too big to let fail." This is called "moral hazard" in insurance and economics, and we now have it on a massive scale.

I warned in 2005, "We will just have to ride this real estate tsunami wave and then plunge down the financial waterfall that lies ahead." Again I say, "The cause is the same all over: government financial and fiscal interventions. So please … don't blame the market!"

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ARE YOU MGW'S PEREZ HILTON?
EDITOR@MGWNEWS.COM

Many people say we should get a ballot initiative to legalize same sex marriage on the ballot in 2010 if the Supreme Court does not overturn Proposition 8. I think it's worth taking time to determine if this is a good idea.

Please know, I believe we do have the right to marry. The right of same sex couples to marry, and build families together, is not dependent on any law or constitutional provision. Nor can it be taken away by any vote of the people. It is based on our status as free and independent individuals. No one can tell us who we can or cannot marry.

Recognition of our marriages and families is a different question. I believe an unbiased study of our state and federal constitutions would reveal that those documents require that same sex marriages should be recognized. However, as a people, we have agreed the rights and duties of citizens will be determined by our state and local constitutions, and by the laws that our elected representatives pass. And we have agreed that the judiciary will be the final determiner of what those constitutions and laws mean, including what they mean on the recognition of same sex marriage in our society. Thus we must depend on those constitutions and laws, as interpreted by the courts, to secure the right to have same sex marriages recognized.

So, should we try to get an initiative on the 2010 ballot to require the recognition of same sex marriages in California if the Supreme Court upholds proposition 8?

Several things suggest that might not be wise. First of all, it is far from certain that we would win such an election. The opposition has succeeded in getting constitutional amendments banning recognition of same sex marriages in 29 states. And, in California, the LGBTI community has lost on two of the three anti gay propositions put on the California ballot.

Second, running such an initiative would be very expensive. Fighting proposition 8 cost our side over $38 million. It's likely that running a new initiative would cost that much or more. And, if the Supreme Court upholds Proposition 8, it is highly likely that our opponents would place an initiative on the ballot to overturn the state's domestic partner laws. Our side might not have the money and energy to fight a third such initiative in such rapid succession.

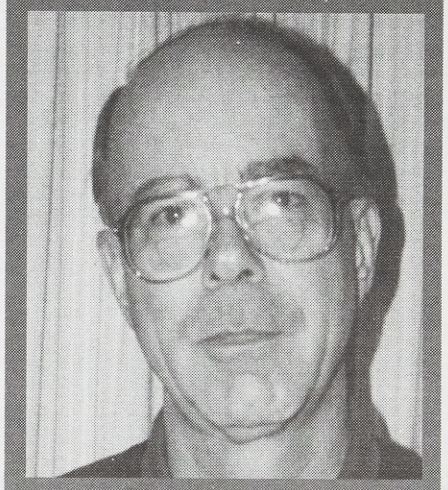
And losing California's domestic partner laws could be a serious blow to the community. Gaining the right of same sex couples to marry in California provides little concrete benefit. All the rights and protections of marriage that can be provided by state law are already provided by California's domestic partner laws. Gaining the right to marry would add nothing to the rights and benefits of marriage for same sex couples until and unless the federal government overturns the Defense of Marriage Act. This federal law bans federal recognition of same sex marriages. But losing the protections of California's domestic partner laws would strip many legal and financial benefits from domestic partners in our state.

It would be a real shame if our community was too exhausted to defeat an initiative to ban domestic partner benefit laws because it had spent so much of its treasure and energy fighting for the right to have same sex marriage recognized in California. It might be best to save our resources to protect domestic partner rights.

And finally there is the issue of the best use of our community's resources. Consider what else the $38 million plus cost of a marriage initiative campaign could be used for. It could fund important research on an HIV/AIDS vaccine. Also, according to the Williams Institute, there are 1.3 million lesbians, gays or bisexuals in California. Probably 166,000 of them are age 65 or over and are approaching the years in which they might need assisted living services. Many straight people have children and grandchildren to look after them in old age, but most LGBTI people do not. Thirty eight million dollars could help start programs to provide such supportive services to LGBTI seniors.

So pushing a same sex marriage initiative in 2010 might not be a good idea.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND TO THIS ARTICLE YOU CAN DO SO BY VISITING MY BLOG: HTTP://02B86A8.NETSOLHOST.COM/BLOG2



BY BOYCE HINMAN
CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES UNITED INSTITUTE
B.HINMAN@CALCOMUI.ORG

DOES MARRIAGE MATTER

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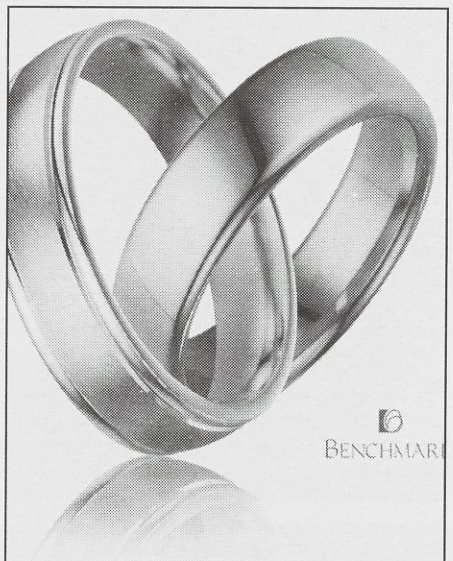

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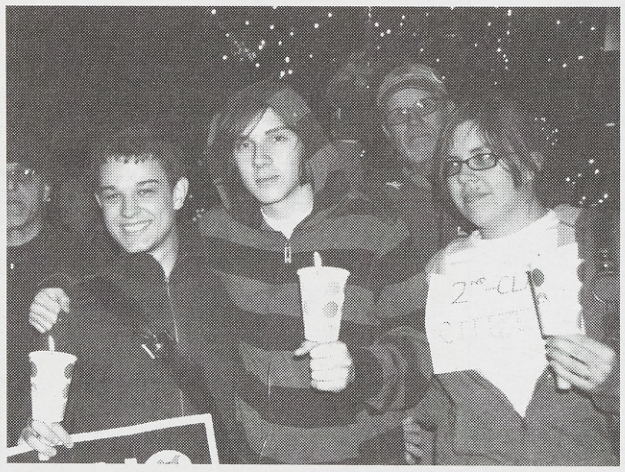
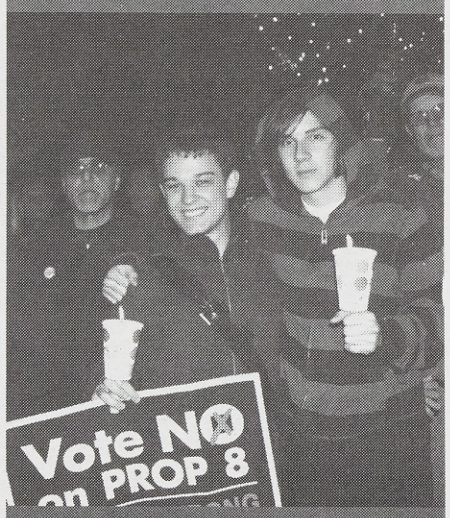
LEFT: DECEMBER AT FACES WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY TWO HUGE EVENTS: THE FETISH BALL AND THE NAUGHTY CHRISTMAS PARTY. (LEFT TO RIGHT) MIZZ MONIQUE MOORE AND FACES RESIDENT QUEEN "MYSTERY" WEAR THEIR FINEST FETISH GEAR AS THEY PREPARE TO "PUNISH" FACES DANCER IRA. FACES.NET

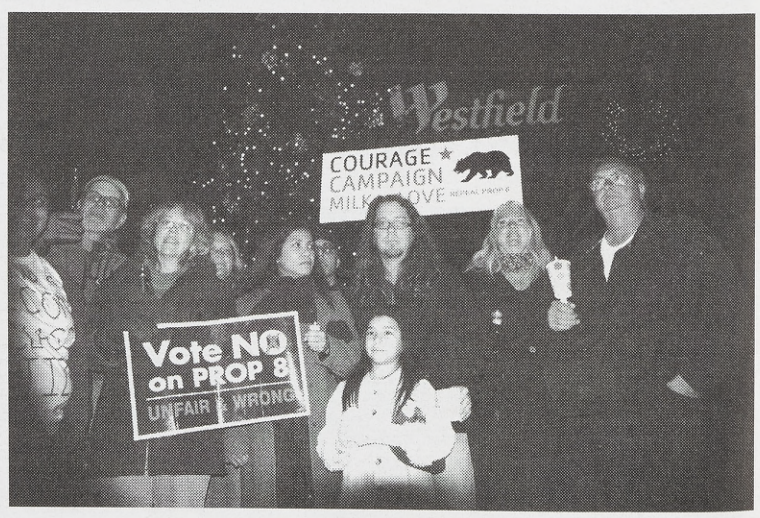
BELOW: DEC. 20 LIGHT UP THE NIGHT FOR EQUALITY DEMONSTRATION. A CANDLELIGHT VIGIL WAS HELD AT COMMERCIAL CENTERS IN CITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE RIGHTS THAT ONCE WERE FOR 18,000 MARRIAGES, AND IN HONOR OF THE RIGHTS THAT ONE DAY WILL BE AGAIN– FOR EVERYONE. DOWNTOWN PLAZA BETWEEN MACYS AND 7TH STREET, SACRAMENTO.

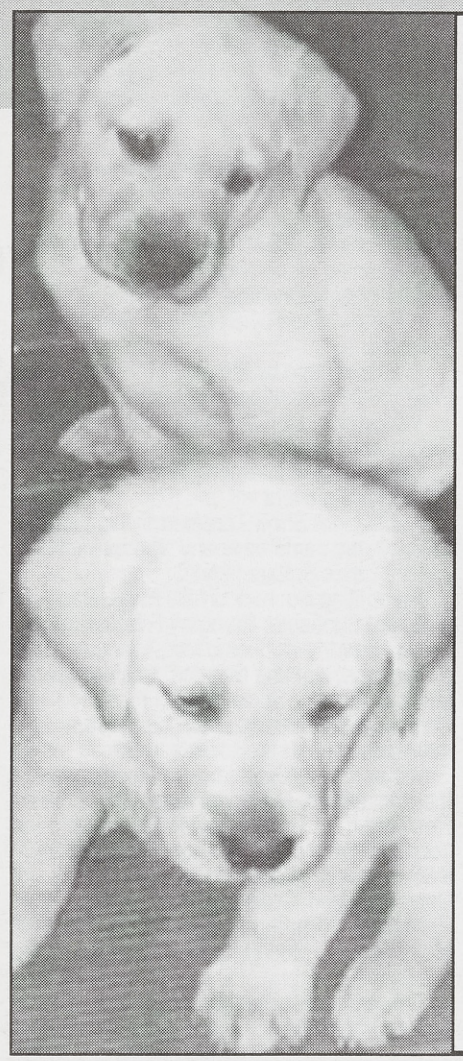
JOINTHEIMPACT.COM

ABOVE: THE DEPOT HOSTED THE SECOND ANNUAL "CHRISTMAS WITH CARGO" BENEFITING THE AIDS HOUSING ALLIANCE. (TOP LEFT TO RIGHT) ICP IMPERIAL CROWN PRINCESS, EMPRESS 13 OF CHICO DEBBIE DELICIOUS, GRAND DUCHESS 15 & 28, GRAND DUCHESS 20 CRYSTAL POWERS, (BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT) EMPRESS 35 PRECIOUS CARGO, EMPEROR 35 SANTOS, GRAND DUCHESS 29. THEDEPOT.NET









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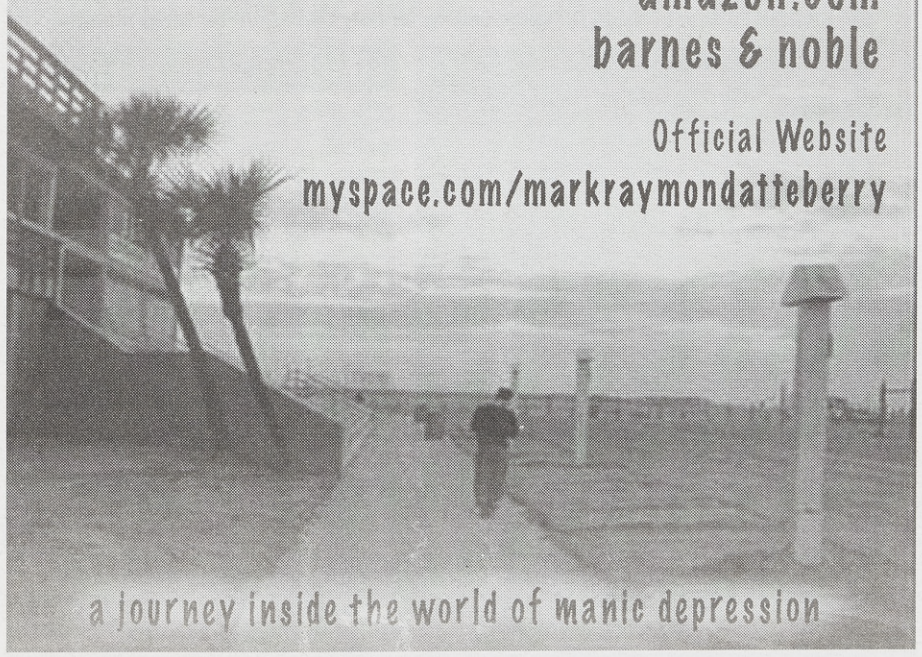

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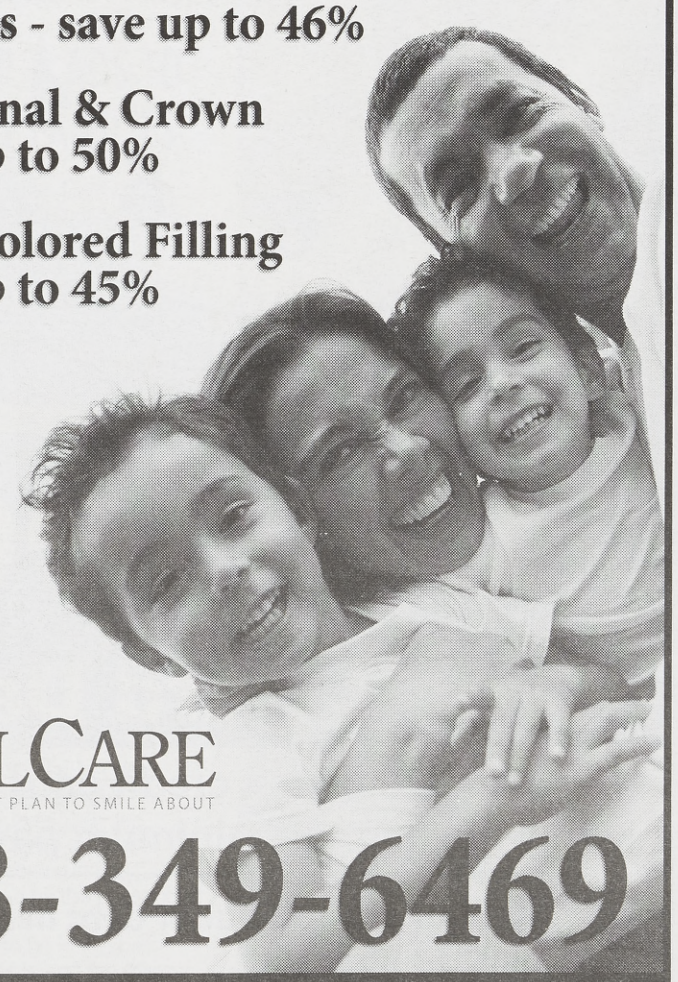

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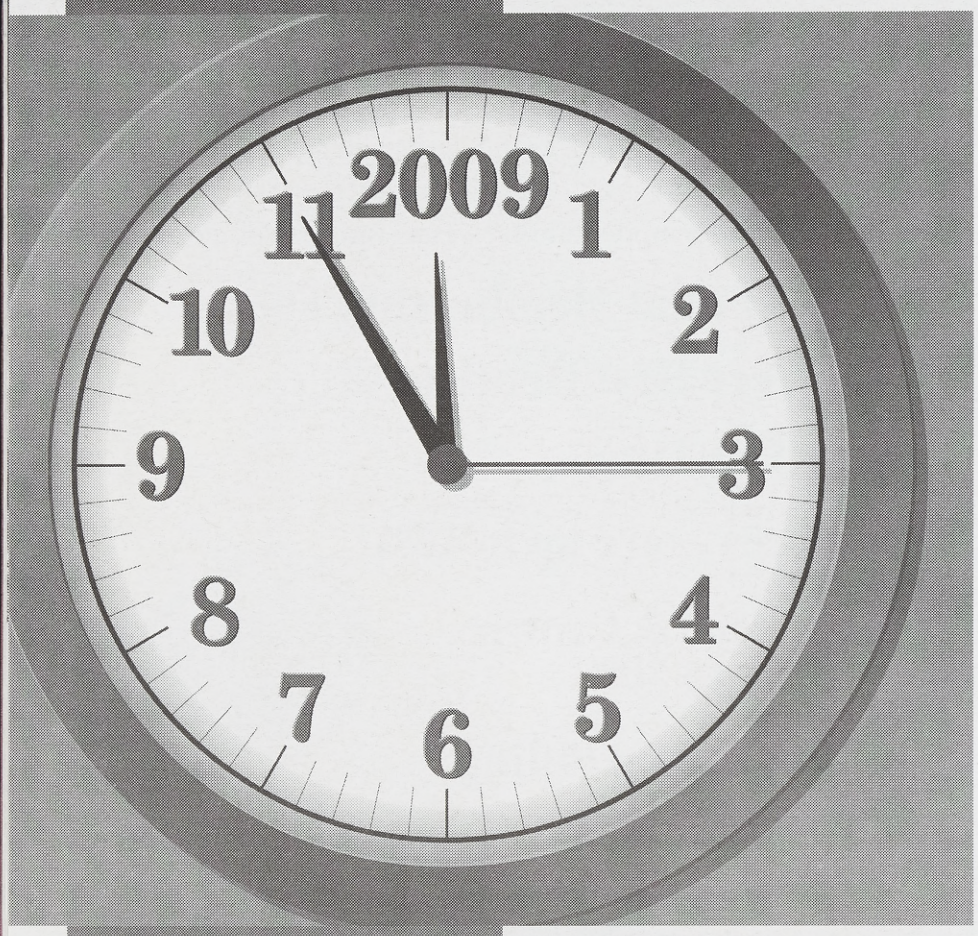

SACRAMENTO'S INAUGURAL BALL DROP

A plan to bring a Times Square-like "Ball Drop" to downtown Sacramento – a first for the West Coast -- has taken hold according to the producers of the event, local businesses Paragary Restaurant Group and edaddywarbucks Together the two firms have raised thousands of dollars for the event from the local business community, proving that a down economy hasn't dampened everyone's spirits.

"This is just the beginning of what will, hopefully, become an annual event in Sacramento, convincing locals to stay in town for the holiday, as well as luring visitors from neighboring counties," said Randy Paragary, owner of Paragary Restaurant Group, one of the event's sponsors.

The first-ever Sacramento event will feature a lighted LED ball dropped from atop a former bank building at 930 K St at one minute before midnight, with newly-elected mayor Kevin Johnson leading the countdown. Other festivities tied to the ball drop will start at 11 p.m. on a stage at 10th and K Streets. In order to accommodate the expected large crowds, 10th Street will be shut down between J and L Streets.

By staging a ball drop, Sacramento would join an elite club of communities that ring in the New Year in this fashion. In addition to New York's century old Times Square ball drop, a ball drop has been held since 1988 in Buffalo, New York. In Atlanta, Georgia, a giant illuminated peach is dropped to signal the beginning of the New Year.

Event highlights include:

- Performance by STOMP of Broadway Sacramento
- Performance by the cast of "Forever Plaid" of the Cosmopolitan Cabaret
- Countdown led by newly-elected mayor Kevin Johnson
- Good Day Sacramento's Mark S. Allen as MC for the event
- LED Light Show - created by Lighting Science, the same company who builds the ball for Times Square in NYC

Presenting Sponsor: Wells Fargo Bank

Event Sponsors: Paragary Restaurant Group, Edaddywarbucks, Inc., Avenue Illumination, Lighting Science, California Musical Theatre, Social Nightclub, The Cosmopolitan Building, David S. Taylor Interests, Ella Dining Room and Bar, Grebitus & Sons Fine Jewelry, Residence Inn Sacramento at Capitol Park, Chops Restaurant, U.S. Bank Tower, Markstein, Young's Market, Sacramento Magazine, 94.7 KSSJ Smooth Jazz, Sactown Magazine, Universal Limo, Crest Theatre, Inside Publications, Primero Outdoor Media, DBI, Mejor Tequila, Megami Sushi, Minuteman Press

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KORS REJECTS INAUGURATION INVITE

In declining his invitation to attend inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama because of Rev. Rick Warren giving the invocation, EQCA Executive Director Geoff Kors released the following statement:

It is extremely disappointing and hurtful that President-elect Obama has chosen California Rev. Rick Warren, who actively supported Prop 8 and the elimination of existing civil rights for LGBT Californians, to give the invocation at his inauguration.

Accordingly, I have decided to decline the invitation to attend the inauguration as I cannot be part of a celebration that highlights and gives voice to someone who advocated repealing rights from me and millions of other Californians.

I was looking forward to hearing a speech by the new President about his vision of a new America and an end to the politics of division where one group is pitted against another.

Rick Warren does not share that vision. Far from it. Instead, he actively works to divide Americans based on who we are and has been an ardent supporter of efforts to ostracize LGBT Americans.

It would be impossible for me to attend the Inauguration where a person who has worked to deny my and Equality California members equality is setting the tone.

EQCA is asking its members to sign a petition that will be delivered to President-elect Barack Obama.eqca.org/takeaction.

EQCA works to achieve equality and secure legal protections for LGBT people. To improve the lives of LGBT Californians, EQCA sponsors legislation and coordinates efforts to ensure its passage, lobbies legislators and other policy makers, builds coalitions, develops community strength and empowers individuals and other organizations to engage in the political process. www.eqca.org

ATTORNEY GENERAL SAYS INVALIDATE PROP 8

Attorney General Edmund G. Brown Jr. today called upon the California Supreme Court to invalidate Proposition 8 because it deprives people of the right to marry—an aspect of liberty that the Supreme Court has concluded is guaranteed by the California Constitution.

"Proposition 8 must be invalidated because the amendment process cannot be used to extinguish fundamental constitutional rights without compelling justification," Attorney General Brown said.

In this case, Attorney General Brown concludes that existing case-law precedents of the Court do not invalidate Proposition 8 either as a revision or as a violation of the separation-of-powers doctrine. But this does not resolve the matter.

In the In re Marriages Cases, the Court held that article I, section 1 of the California Constitution provides a right to marry that cannot be denied to same-sex couples. Attorney General Brown argues that in order invalidate such a fundamental right, the Court must determine that there is a compelling justification to do so. But in the In re Marriage Cases, the court found that no such compelling justification exists. Accordingly, Proposition 8 must be stricken.

Attorney General Brown believes that same-sex marriages entered into between June 16 and November 4, 2008 are valid and recognized in California regardless of whether Proposition 8 is upheld.

PROP 8 SPONSORS SEEK TO DESTROY STILL VALID GAY MARRIAGES

Those behind Prop 8 are pressuring the California Supreme Court to invalidate the marriages of approximately 18,000 same-sex couples who exchanged vows before voters approved by a narrow margin the ballot initiative that banned gay unions.

The Yes on 8 campaign argues that because the new law holds that only marriages between a man and a woman are recognized or valid in California, the state can no longer recognize the existing same-sex unions. The gay-hate group has made it known that opponents of same-sex marriage will do everything they legally can to undo the unions that already exist.

"Prop. 8's brevity is matched by its clarity. There are no conditional clauses, exceptions, exemptions or exclusions," reads the legal paper co-written by Kenneth Starr, dean of Pepperdine University's law school. Starr was also the counsel who investigated President Bill Clinton.

The Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments by March 2009.

HRC WANTS LDS TO SUPPORT "COMMON GROUND" INITIATIVE

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization, today launched a national action alert written by activist Bruce Bastian to the LGBT community to contact the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) and ask its leadership to support LGBT protections in Utah.

The action alert follows a letter sent by Human Rights Campaign last week to LDS Church President Thomas Monson asking the church "offer protections and support" to LGBT people by supporting the Common Ground Initiative by Equality Utah, the state LGBT group. The action alert and letter urge the church to publicly support the words of Elder L. Whitney Clayton, who recently said the LDS Church is not opposed to civil unions and other non-marriage legal recognitions of same-sex relationships. To view the action alert visit: http://www.hrcactioncenter.org/campaign/ldsletter.

"As you know, California's Proposition 8 stripped loving, committed couples of their legal right to marry. While we will always be in opposing camps regarding marriage equality under the law, I ask that you now support legislative change in Utah that offers real protections to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens and families," according to the letter, written by Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "If the LDS Church is committed to a view that there are other ways to offer protections and support to the LGBT people who are in your pews and in your home state, then you will publicly join Equality Utah's Common Ground Initiative."

At this time, LDS Church leadership has not responded to the letter sent by Human Rights Campaign. The letter as sent to LDS Church President Thomas Monson: can be read in full at: hrc.org/ldsletter

REPEAL PROP. 8 ADS TO FEATURE GAY FAMILIES

A group of gay and lesbian Californians announced today they will be "taking to the airwaves" to demonstrate why the right to marry is so important for their families.

The group, GetToKnowMeFirst.org, is planning a campaign of five 30-second commercials to run throughout Inauguration Week in January. The spots will run in both urban and rural markets.

"It's important that our fellow Californians see the faces of the real families that are directly affected by the passage of Proposition 8," said John Ireland, the group's organizer.

One of the spots in the GetToKnowMeFirst.org campaign will feature Sonia and Gina, a couple who are raising a son and daughter, ages 6 and 3. "Don't take my family's rights away. Get to know me first," Sonia says in the ad. "Our families may look different from yours, but we're not. We need the same things... like marriage... so we can protect and provide for our kids."

Another spot will feature Robin Tyler and Diane Olson, the original plaintiffs in the marriage lawsuit that eventually led the California Supreme Court to legalize marriage for same-sex couples in May 2008. That ruling was overturned by the passage of Proposition 8 in November.

Two of the ads will also be in Spanish. One profiles a Latina couple and the other profiles a family with triplets, headed by two men.

All of the spots are available online at GetToKnowMeFirst.org

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THIS AD SPACE IS ONLY $19.95
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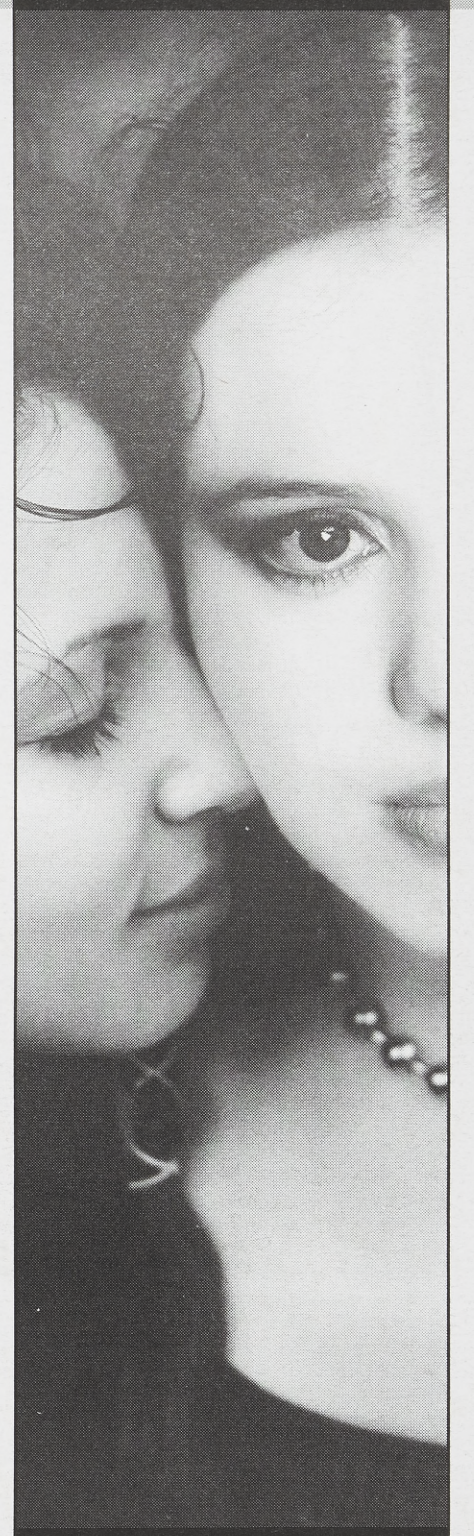
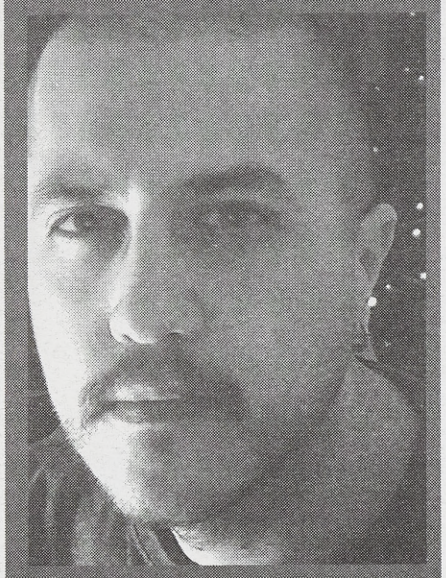


Our love is real.
Our marriage should be, too
Repeal Prop. 8
This as sponsored by gaysacramento.org



ERIC OLSEN IS A COMMENTARY WRITER DEDICATED TO EXPOSING THE MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES.

FITTING IN WITH THOSE WHO DON'T

There was a short bit of time in my life when I believed the LGBT community was a fantasy world of acceptance and love; a place in which it was possible for what was considered by many to be abnormal to be normal. It was a place that nurtured the healing of shattered self-esteem and provided hope and comfort for those who found their way to it. A large part of this illusion can be attributed to ignorance of the nature of people that accompanies youth. Yet even as our community is tied down by the realities of human nature, there is still a shining thread of altruism woven into its fabric.

It is perhaps the recognition of shared pain, of similarities in other human beings that we so rarely see in the larger world, that drives the nurturing instinct to circle around and protect those who have found there way to us. The romantic notion of rescue extended to those most in need of it, to help them find their way. Yet this great noble charity is disturbingly conditional in my experience, shutting out those who are deigned not beautiful enough, not thin enough, not stable enough to fit into the sparkling inner circle. Indeed for the truly broken and battered who happen to fit under the umbrella of LGBT there is often nothing waiting in the discovery of our community but more emotional violence.

As a gay man who has struggled most of his life with flare ups of severe mental illness I have experienced this first hand. I was eighteen when I discovered my first gay support group. It was a two and a half hour drive, and when I arrived at my first meeting my legs were shaking so badly from nerves I could barely get out of the car. There was a cafe in the same building and the scent of coffee filled the air as I ascended the stairs to the meeting room. My body weak and my head fuzzy, I found the room full of people smiling at me and making eye contact that I was, at the time, not able to hold. I remember sitting down, terrified, but thinking with awe, "these people are like me." I thought I had finally found a place where I belonged ... but I had not.

I have three forms of mental illness: bipolar disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, and generalized anxiety disorder. The three combined can make social interaction, and sometimes even leaving the house, daunting even now. The three combined with the inexperience and raging libido of an 18 year old boy was crippling. I was a slave to paranoia and the underdeveloped social skills common to those with severe mental illness. I tried very much to fit within my abilities but was woefully under prepared. Eventually, after months of attending the group, after months of receding further and further into corners, after months of fumbling attempts at socializing with these people who had once seemed so like me, I stopped going at all. To not belong in the only place you thought you could belong is a devastating experience to put it mildly.

My gradual alienation from the group was not an uncommon happening. There were standards of beauty as well as sanity. Those who were not blessed with raw sexual energy and societally-accepted attractiveness were often relegated into particular sections in the room to socialize amongst their own. Obese and morbidly obese men, the few who were brave enough to mix with the larger groups were looked at with derision and humored with condescending remarks. One man in particular told me that the very act of making eye contact with physically fit men more often then not was met with sneers, and even seemed to meet with offense that a fat man would dare think of them in a sexual manner.

It must be said that there were and are very compassionate, empathetic and genuinely concerned people in the community. People who reached out to all who were pushed out onto the fringe. People who spent a lot of energy trying to keep everyone in the same space in order to give us strength in areas of activism, not to mention just a general sense of harmony. What is disheartening to me is that the work these people do never ends, we continue to divide and classify ourselves internally as a community, we continue to re-victimize people who have already been devastated by the rejection, and often violence, they faced in the heterosexual world. It is not enough just to be LGBT to fit in, despite what the sign says.

So what can be done about this ugly bit of human nature? We can be conscious of the fact that this world damages everyone who is LGBT, it kicks us when we're down and tells us we are nothing. We can be conscious of the fact that when people find us they often come emotionally-battered and confused and in need of compassion and understanding, rather than a quick classification and relegation into their proper place (and each and every one of us has the power to stop that by modifying what we do as individuals). We can be conscious of the fact that no human being's worth can be defined by what they have to offer on the level of sexual interaction. We can look at ourselves and ask ourselves what we are doing harm others simply because they are who they are or what they look like. We can answer that question, and rather than getting defensive and feeling guilty about it—we can change it.

These days, even with the issues that set me apart from others in our community, I have managed to find tremendously strong friendships and people with hearts open and full of empathy for others, regardless of who they are or what "niche" of the community they may fit into. I have been lucky, very lucky to stumble into an amazing circle of friends. It is the people who are part of the LGBT community who have not had this good fortune that concern me. The people who are confused and lost and lonely and have found only more rejection among people with which they believed they would finally belong. It is because of these people, oblivious to their own worth, that I continue to question how I treat others, and how I can alter myself in order to treat them better. It is these people I hope others in the community will think of as well, and alter themselves and their treatment of those who are alienated even from the alienated.

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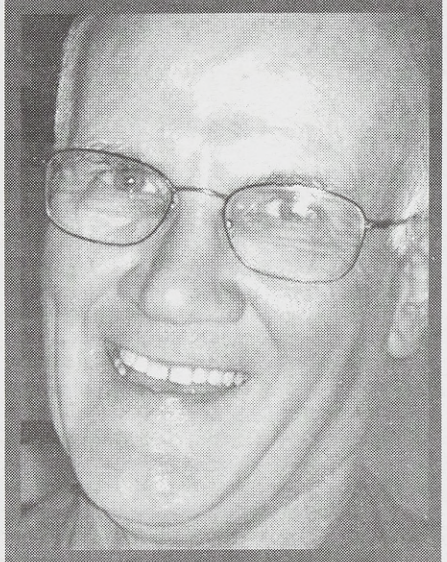


BY TOM GILLIAM, PH.D.

THE FESTIVE, FIT FAMILY: TEN WAYS TO COMBAT CHILDHOOD OBESITY BY GETTING THE WHOLE FAMILY HEALTHY...HOLIDAY STYLE

IF HOLIDAY AND FINANCIAL STRESS HAVE YOU STRAYING FROM A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE, IT'S LIKELY YOUR BAD HABITS ARE RUBBING OFF ON YOUR KIDS. HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR GETTING YOU AND YOURS IN SHAPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND THE NEW YEAR.

The holidays are here in full (fattening) force. And unfortunately for the health conscious, along with the tinsel and the tree comes the onslaught of temptation: the rich turkey gravy, the dressing, the sugar cookies, the eggnog, the pie—all those comfort foods that taste especially comforting during a recession-marred holiday. But as we mentally prepare ourselves to push away from the festively set table, it's easy to forget we aren't the only ones facing tempting treats—our kids are too.

That's right. Between parties at school and stockings stuffed with sugary surprises, our kids are just as susceptible to the guilty pleasures we allow ourselves during the holiday season. The bad news is that the "special occasion" indulgences we allow during the holidays can quickly morph into harmful bad habits for our children—habits that will last long after the gifts have been unwrapped.

A lifetime of fitness always begins at home, and that's also true when the home is covered in tinsel and lights. Research shows over and over that the only way to combat childhood obesity is to make nutrition and exercise family priorities. And while it's okay for them to indulge a little bit during the holidays, you should gently steer your kids away from the third buttery dinner roll and the double handful of chocolate candy."

It's no surprise that childhood obesity is a growing problem in the U.S. In fact, the New England Journal of Medicine recently reported that one in three kids is now overweight or obese. This reality has encouraged more and more companies to teach the "family fitness" principle to their employees, helping the "get kids and families healthy together" trend gather momentum.

Kids live what they learn, and parents are their number one source of information. If they see you making unhealthy choices, they will naturally assume it's okay for them too.

With busy holiday schedules and tightened budgets, it may seem impossible to come up with new and creative ways to help get your family on the fitness bandwagon. Not so. Making just a few simple changes to your family's daily routine can have a huge impact on everyone's overall fitness.

Here are some tried and true tips for getting your family in shape—not only during the holidays but at any time of the year:

Find "hidden" exercise in your holiday housekeeping routine. It may seem like a no-brainer, but good old fashioned chores can be one of the best ways to keep in shape. And, luckily, there are many reasons to do chores this time of year. Be sure to involve your kids in any pre-holiday festivities clean-up or just the general tidying up of the house. Vacuuming, dusting, mopping, sweeping, and taking out the trash are all ways your kids can do their part for the family while helping to get in the physical activity they need each day. Crank up the volume on some good music during chore time to get everyone moving and the house will be clean in no time!

Brave the frosty air and enjoy winter workouts. On snowy days, get bundled up and get moving. Go sledding, build snow angels, and have a snowball fight with your kids. If you're near a city, hit the sidewalks and enjoy the holiday window displays. Or if it's too cold or rainy, visit an indoor sports facility like a batting cage or an indoor rock climbing center. It certainly beats sitting inside being a couch potato!

Alleviate winter break boredom with a spirited game of Duck, Duck, (Christmas) Goose. Know how restless your kids get when they're out of school for a few weeks? Add instant entertainment—and sneak in some exercise—by showing them the games you used to love to play when you were a kid. Teach them all about Red Rover; Mother, May I?; Duck, Duck, Goose; and Red Light, Green Light—then spend an hour after dinner playing one of them. It's a great way to stay active and create some special childhood memories for your own children. Check out gameskidsplay.net for a complete listing of instructions plus other suggestions for new games to learn and try together!

Model good "snacking" habits. As mentioned before, your kids learn their eating and exercising habits from you. If they see you make a healthy snack choice like an orange instead of reaching for yet another handful of holiday party mix, they'll go for the good stuff too. But don't rely on pure willpower. Try to keep the house low on junk food. Help kids avoid temptation by keeping the house stocked with healthful and delicious snack foods like yogurt, fresh fruit, raisins, and natural peanut butter. Just because it's the holidays doesn't mean it's okay to gorge on sugary and fat-filled foods.

On the other hand, don't ban all holiday treats. When trying to get the family eating more healthfully, many parents make the mistake of throwing out all of the candy, cookies, juice drinks, and other foods that kids tend to love. That is the wrong approach. Don't make any food totally off limits. As long as food is consumed in moderate amounts, it's okay! Making something off limits can cause your child to binge on treats when they are available at school or at Grandma's. Besides, the holidays just wouldn't be the holidays without the occasional Christmas cookie or Hanukkah doughnut.

Make exercise a daily habit. Whether it's a 30-minute stroll after dinner each night or a weekly trip to the local walking trail, make exercising with your family a consistent routine in your day-to-day lives. Besides being good for you, it can help you alleviate some holiday stress and help your kids burn off some of their excited energy. When it's a part of your regular schedule, like going to Grandma's on Sundays or having spaghetti for dinner on Thursday nights, your kids will expect it. And who knows? If you keep up the fitness routine, your kids might even look forward to the additional family time.

Set up a holiday fitness competition. Kids are naturally competitive. Use that quality to their advantage. Buy everyone a pedometer and tell the kids that whoever logs the most miles gets to open the first Christmas or Hanukkah present. Alternately, create a goal

that the whole family can work on together. Set a number of miles for the week and chart each family member's progress at the end of the day. At the end of the week, if the family has achieved their collective goal, then celebrate with a movie night or a special (low-fat!) frozen yogurt treat.

Encourage kids' culinary curiosity. You should never stand in the way of your child trying something new, even if you suspect she won't like it. Always encourage their interest in trying new foods and you will be rewarded when they discover they do like broccoli and Brussels sprouts. You might also be surprised by what you can sneak by your kids. The holiday season is a great time for them to try out foods they don't eat every day that are nutrition powerhouses—pumpkins, cranberries, and spicy teas, for example.

Let them help make the figgy pudding. Kids love to help in the kitchen, and by allowing them to be a part of the food prep process, you can seize a great learning opportunity. And they'll especially enjoy having a hand in preparing your Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa feast. Explain to them why you use certain foods and techniques to be healthier. Allowing your kids to help in the kitchen gives them a sense of ownership over the meal, and they will be more eager to gobble up a healthy dinner that they had a hand in cooking!

Sneak "fitness" gifts into their stockings. There are lots of great (and inexpensive) resources out there that can help you keep maintaining a healthy lifestyle on your kids' minds. For older kids a subscription to a fitness magazine might make a good stocking stuffer. You might also throw in a fitness DVD—beginner's martial arts and beginner's yoga or pilates are great options. For younger kids, my own series of brightly illustrated children's books, featuring cartoon characters Heart "E" Heart and friends, is a huge hit and a great way to get them thinking about healthy living. And jump ropes, stretch bands, and dumbbells are appropriate gifts for kids of all ages and can be bought for under $10. While the recession has caused many families to cancel fitness club memberships, the good news is that many, many fitness items are reasonably priced. You don't have to bust your budget to give your kids the best gift of all—the keys to a healthy life.

Remember, getting fit and healthy is not about going to extremes. It's about making small, gradual, incremental changes in your day-to-day life. And that's why the holidays are a good time to help your kids start the process—there's something valuable about practicing the art of moderation in a season known for the exact opposite.

You know the cliché about New York—if you can make it here, you can make it anywhere? Well, the same is true of the holidays. If you show your kids they can exercise when it's 20 degrees outside and they can stop with two sugar cookies instead of wolfing down six, think how much easier it will be to make healthful choices when it's warm outside and there's no endless supply of treats to tempt them. Get them in the habit now and maintain it all year long; eventually they'll grow up to be what you want them to be: healthy and happy adults.

Thomas B. Gilliam, Ph.D., is the founder and president of T. Gilliam & Associates, coauthor of the book Move It. Lose It. Live Healthy.: The Simple Truth About Achieving & Maintaining a Healthy Body Weight, creator of the Move It. Lose It. Live Healthy.® wellness program, designed to teach workers how to achieve a healthy body weight, creator of www.moveitloseitlivehealthy.com, and founder and owner of Industrial Physical Capability Services, Inc. (IPCS).

Since 1982, Dr. Gilliam has designed and managed many corporate fitness centers ranging from 500 square feet to 34,000 square feet. He has established a variety of wellness programs to deal with such health issues as high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, physical inactivity, stress, osteoporosis, low back pain, and many more.

In addition, Dr. Gilliam is a pioneer and acknowledged expert in the field of dynamic strength testing for industry based on the sports medicine model. Since 1982, he has provided isokinetic physical capability assessments for Fortune 1000 companies through his company Industrial Physical Capability Services, Inc. (IPCS) (ipcs-inc.com). Dr. Gilliam's programs have dramatically reduced workers' compensation costs and decreased injury incidence and severity rates for major industrial clients. In addition, Dr. Gilliam has been instrumental in identifying and presenting to industry the higher risk for injury and disease caused by obesity in the workplace.

Dr. Gilliam is the creator of the Heart "E" Heart program, which is a healthy lifestyle program for children and their families. He was the principal investigator in a National Institutes of Health research study investigating the impact of physical activity and nutritional habits on heart disease risk in young children. Conducted in the late 1970s, this research resulted in numerous scholarly publications and television and radio interviews throughout the world, including NBC's Today Show and NBC's Nightly News with its science editor, Robert Basel.

In 1973, Dr. Gilliam earned a doctorate degree in exercise physiology with a minor in graduate statistics and research design from Michigan State University. From 1974 to 1982, Dr. Gilliam was a tenured faculty member at the University of Michigan. Before resigning from his tenured faculty position, he was involved with numerous funded research projects (i.e., N.I.H., Kellogg Foundation, State of Michigan, and others) that resulted in twenty-nine refereed scholarly publications.

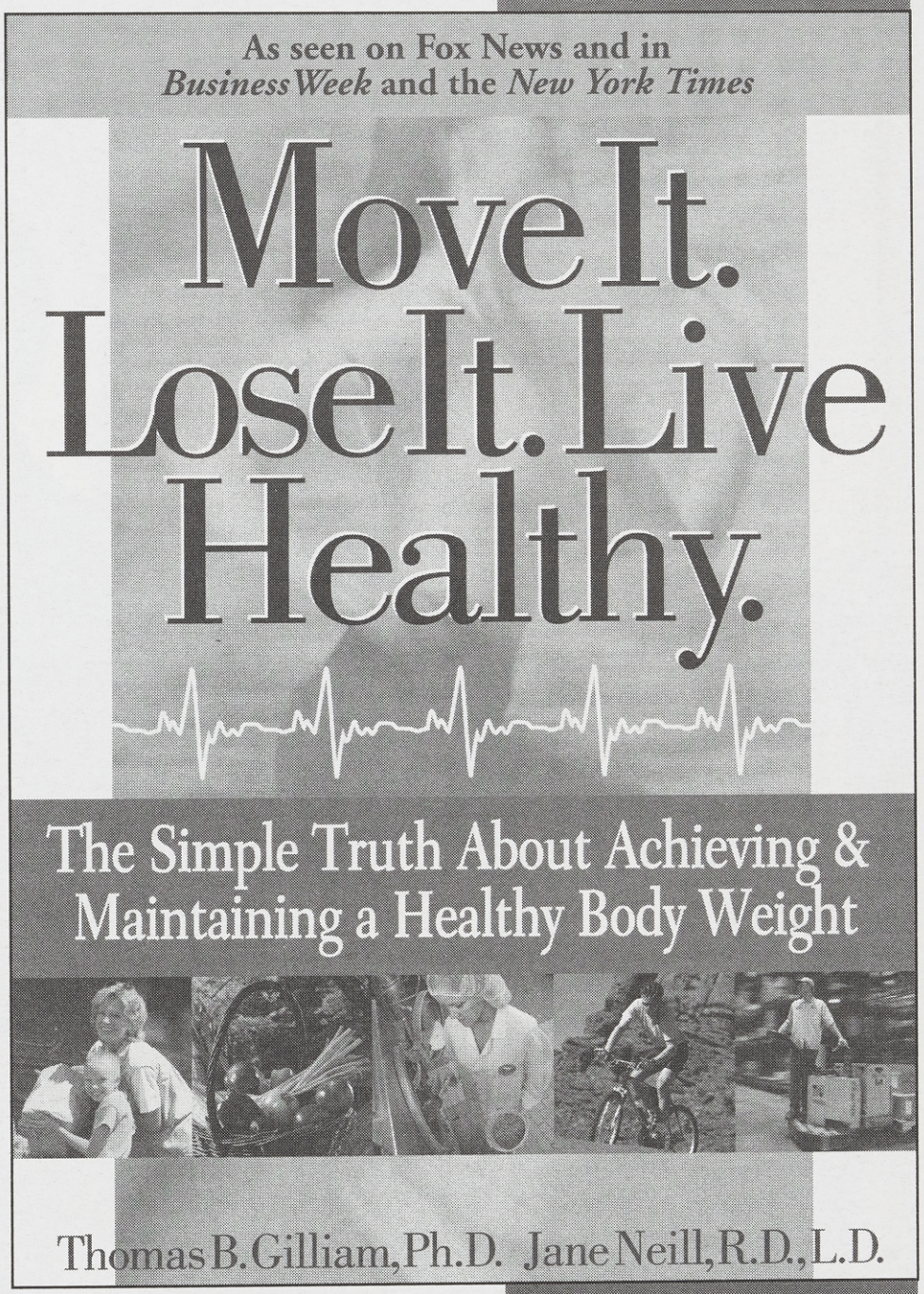
Jane C. Neill, R.D., L.D., is the 2004 recipient of the Nutritionist of the Year Award for the State of Alabama Public Health. She is an active member of the American Dietetic Association and currently employed by the Alabama Department of Public Health, where she works with the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program as a WIC coordinator and a licensed dietitian. She has worked in the WIC program for over ten years, providing daily nutrition counseling for women, infants, and children.

While on the staff as a registered dietitian at the University of Michigan Health System in the late 1970s, Jane was instrumental in working with Dr. Gilliam as an investigator on the National Institutes of Health research study to investigate the impact of physical activity and nutritional habits on heart disease risk in children ages six to eight years.

Ms. Neill is a member of the team that developed and wrote the Heart "E" Heart program for children and their families.

She received her bachelor's of science degree from the University of Alabama in 1977 in food, nutrition, and institutional management. Ms. Neill has been working as a registered dietitian for over twenty-seven years.

Move It. Lose It. Live Healthy.: The Simple Truth About Achieving & Maintaining a Healthy Body Weight (Move It. Lose It. Live Healthy., LLC, 2008, ISBN-13: 978-0-9762703-5-5, ISBN-10: 0-9762703-5-8, $19.95) is available in bookstores nationwide and through all major online booksellers.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Lose It. Live
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The Simple Truth About Achieving &
Maintaining a Healthy Body Weight
Thomas B. Gilliam, Ph.D. Jane Neill, R.D., L.D.

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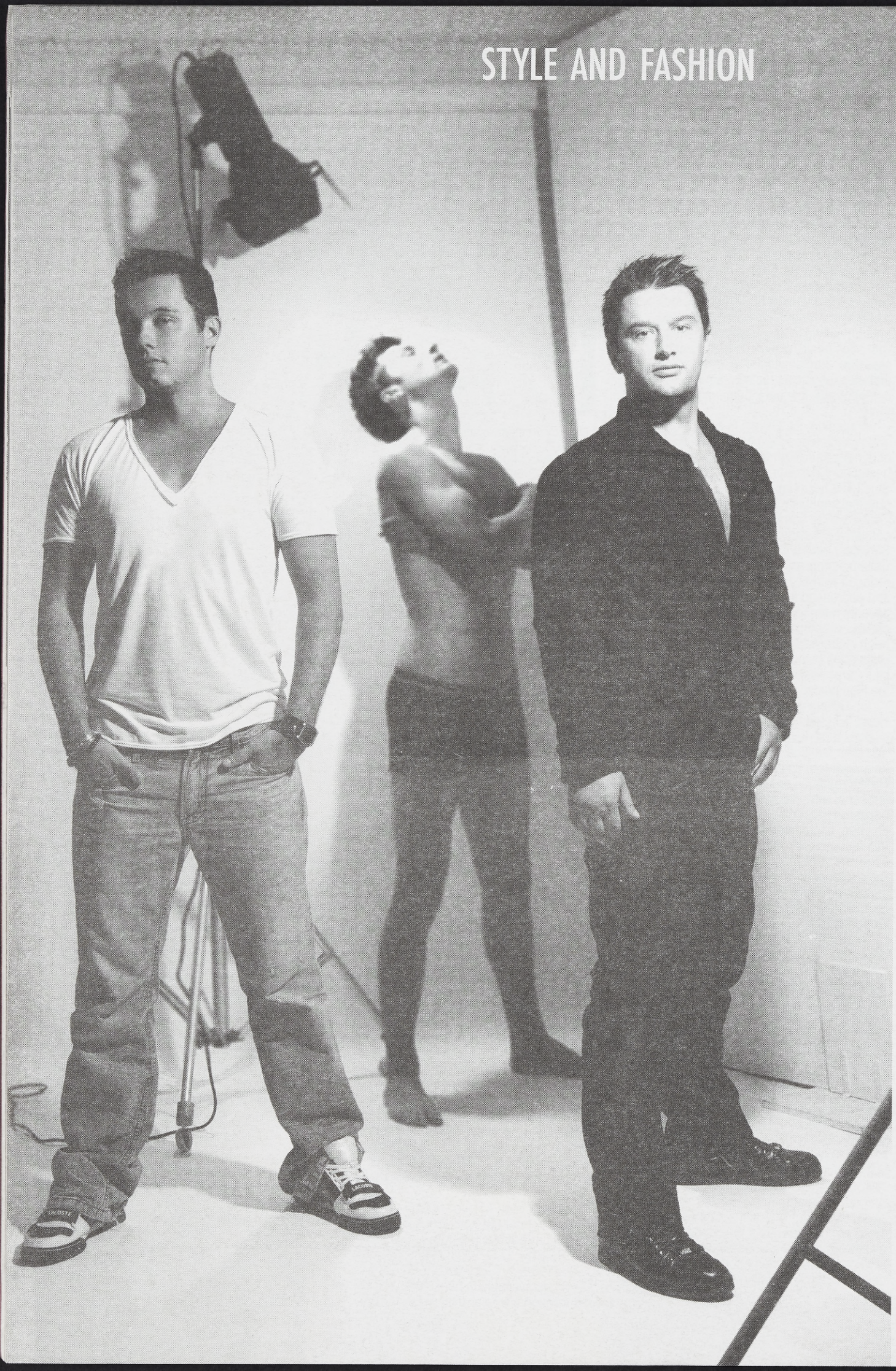

BelloMag.com is the new digital men's fashion magazine that defines style for today's modern man. Founded by Aleksandar Tomovic and Stephane Marquet, the duo behind the popular Ohlalamag.com style blog, the site represents the next generation in men's fashion media.

"We created BelloMag.com as a magazine we would love to read," explained Mr. Tomovic from his home in Los Angeles. Two months ago, he and business and life partner Marquet gave up their Parisian home base and became full-time Angeleenos. "In Bello's paperless pages, we aim to present the bare essentials of daily living along with the high end material items refined men dream about."

BelloMag.com is geared to trend seeking men, 18-45. "It is for the man who does not crave the latest fads, but instead creates his own style," continues Marquet. "The Bello man understands the importance of being unique and recognizes the need to continuously cultivate his look."

Following its tagline, Lifestyle Alphabet for Modern Men, BelloMag.com is chronologically organized from "A" through "Z". In the latest book, available online now, a stunning pictorial spread by photographer Fred Goudon titled "A Bare Necessity" opens the issue; 200 electronic pages later, an equally captivating spread by photographer Errikos Andreou, titled "Zero Gravity" closes it. The fourth issue is the first edited by Stephane Marquet. Previous BelloMag.com's featured promising new artists and famous designers as guest editors. "We decided we would let our voices out in this issue, but only this issue," stressed Marquet. "The next Bello will once again feature a guest editor as we value the variety other minds bring to the content of the magazine."

Tomovic and Marquet say they are always on the search for the most promising photographers and journalists to feature in the pages of Bellomag.com. They feel today's traditional magazines are stunted because they work with the same talent pool.

Additionally paper fashion books are dimensionally stunted, they say. While BelloMag.com follows the format of a traditional glossy, with double page fashion spreads and three-columned copy, the online magazine offers reader interaction and incorporates video, animation, and music to its pages.

BelloMag.com also continues in Tomovic and Marquet's desire to create an eco-friendly media house. "One can never underestimate the importance of conservation and of each individual's responsibility for our beautiful planet," says Marquet. "We believe all fashion magazines will eventually go digital."

With the unprecedented growth BelloMag.com has enjoyed in its first three issues, Tomovic and Marquet may be on to something. "It's been a tremendous ride already," continues Marquet. The first two issues were read by 250,000 people from all over the world. The third issue enjoyed over 500,000 readers - a 100% growth. Beginning this year, BelloMag.com will be published monthly.

Tomovic and Marquet humbly admit they are surprised by the success. Truth be told, however, they should be used to it. Their flagship style blog, OhLaLamag.com, boasts two million readers each month – more than

GQ and Esquire combined - and six times larger than Men's Vogue.

What started as a fashion journal where Ohlalamag.com reported on trends being featured in the glossy magazines has grown into an empire where OhLaLa now introduces trends before they even appear in the glossies.

Tomovic and Marquet credit the immediacy of the web for their success. "It used to be that fashion changed by the season," explained Mr. Tomovic. "Today, fashion shifts by the day. People who follow the trends want to know the minute change happens."

Tomovic likens the phenomenon to that also being experienced in the world news and entertainment gossip industries. Perezhilton.com now dominates People Magazine. The Drudge Report has a larger readership than Time Magazine. "In today's information age, you need to be the first to introduce new fashions if you want to compete. Unfortunately, by the time something is in Vogue, its out-of-vogue."

In order to obtain information at the lightning speed reader's demand, Tomovic and Marquet rely on industry insiders like stylists, designers, and fashion photographers who feed their news and photos to them. It's a symbiotic relationship, explains Mr. Marquet. "We offer their news and images to our readers and in return, they and their information get international exposure."

"You can't argue OhLaLamag's numbers," affirmed fashion photographer Bruno Rand from his Manhattan studio last week. Rand's photos regularly appear on the blog. "Being published on OhLaLaMag.com means instant, world-wide recognition."

Troy Phillips, who has shot recent covers for Exercise for Men Magazine and DNA Magazine, agrees. He credits OhLaLamag.com with helping to put his photography on the international map and says appearing on the blog has led to paid assignments. "I was commissioned by several publications after my images first featured on OhLaLamag.com."

Rand, too, acknowledges his phone rings more whenever his images appear on OhLaLamag.

It's not only editors that are finding talent on OhLaLamag. Eric Schwers, president of baskit, a leading men's underwear and swimwear brand, regularly hires photographers featured on the blog – including Bruno Rand.

"All of the major underwear and swimwear labels are fighting to be featured on OhLaLamag," he admits. "Hiring an OhLaLa photographer raises the chance your brand might be featured on the blog."

"Of course, the advantage comes at a price," Schwers adds.

A significant price. Once a photographer is established as an OhLaLa photographer, he or she can demand higher prices for campaign shoots – reportedly as much as double the rates they were able to charge before being featured on the blog. The photographers, however, insist it is not the money that has them battling to get their photos posted on OhLaLamag.

"There's a sense of accomplishment appearing on OhLaLamag", says Rand. "It's an honor to be recognized by Alek and Steph."

Troy Phillips echoes Rand's sentiments. "Alek and Steph receive countless requests every day from photographers hoping to have their images posted on the blog. If my photos make it, something in the images must have touched them. It's a stamp of approval; that's the real reward."

Therein may lay the secret to OhLaLamag's success. Editors Alek and Steph do not play the diva role made infamous by their predecessors. Instead of being feared by the industry they report on, the OhLaLa boys gain their respect by being champions of the industry.

"The biggest advice we could give to anyone in business and in life is not to follow the pack," says Marquet.

The OhLaLa boys have not. While new style blogs are popping up everyday to compete against OhLaLamag.com, the boys have decided to once again pioneer a new mode of media: the digital fashion magazine.

"With developments in nano technology and the production of increasingly thinner computer screens, we look forward to the day when our online publications will finally move from computer monitors to devices that readers can carry in their bags and pockets," says Marquet. "For some lucky few, the day is already here. For everyone else, your day will come soon and we'll be ready for you."

Log on toBelloMag.com to preview the next generation in men's fashion and style media.

BY LEIGH CORRIGAN

Ciao Bello!

"OhLaLa" Style Gurus Expand Their Beauty Empire

LARGEST STUDY ON LESBIAN PARENTS IN THE U.S. FINDS CHILDREN HEALTHY AND HAPPY; NATIONAL STUDY FOLLOWING FAMILIES FOR 22 YEARS

The Williams Institute, a research center on sexual orientation law and public policy at UCLA School of Law, announced two new reports from the "The U.S.A. National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study (NLLFS)," published in the American Journal of Orthopsychiatry and Journal of Lesbian Studies. The NLLFS—the longest-running study ever conducted on American lesbian and gay families—finds the children as healthy and well-adjusted as children raised in heterosexual families.

This 22-year study has been following planned lesbian families with children conceived by donor insemination since 1986. The results released today are based on interviews that were conducted when the children were 10 years old. The NLLFS confirms the findings of over 40 other studies on the children of lesbian and gay parents, and supports the positions of all major professional associations on the well-being of children growing up in lesbian and gay families.

The NLLFS finds that although the parents' sexual orientation doesn't harm children, discrimination does; the researchers report that the adverse effects of discrimination were significantly reduced when the parents, schools and communities encouraged an appreciation of diversity.

"The findings of our research conclude that children raised in lesbian parent households are healthy, happy, and high-functioning," said Dr. Nanette Gartrell. "The parents created healthy, loving and safe environments where their children were able to grow and thrive. Even the negative effects of homophobia were largely mitigated when their parents were active participants in the lesbian community and when the children attended schools that taught an appreciation of diversity."

The NLLFS was spearheaded by principal investigator Nanette Gartrell, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco. The NLLFS examines the social, psychological, and emotional development of the children as well as the dynamics of alternative families and children of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) parents. For 22 years, this study has been generating information for specialists in healthcare, family services, sociology, feminist studies, education, ethics, gay marriage, and public policy on matters pertaining to LGBT families. Dr. Gartrell's research documents the thoughtful and innovative parenting styles of lesbian mothers; the effects of homophobia on planned lesbian families; the children's growth and development; and the impact of childrearing on lesbian mothers' relationships, careers, and community activism.

Dr. Gartrell's co-investigator, Henny Bos, Ph.D., University of Amsterdam, is the principal investigator of a Dutch longitudinal study modeled after the NLLFS. The Dutch comparative study examined parenting experiences, couple relationships, social supports, childrearing goals, and child adjustment in 100 lesbian-led, two-parent families and 100 heterosexual, two-parent families. The Dutch study is also documenting homophobia in planned lesbian families. The study aims to determine whether family structure or the quality of the parent-child relationship is most important in the development of children.

For more information about these studies, visit the National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study (NLLFS) website at www.nllfs.org.

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Suzanne Westenhoefer

Back In The Sac!

By Forrest Schroeder-Einwiller

"I went to the Gay Games and I was pissed because I heard we weren't allowed to call it the Gay Olympics," says Suzanne Westenhoefer in one of her appearances this past year. "Little activist Suzanne came out , 'What? Why can't we call it the Olympics? That's a hate crime.' And then I went to the Gay Games, and one of the events was darts. And I sensed that that may be why we weren't allowed to call it the Gay Olympics, because that's a game… you play darts when you're half-lit in somebody's den."

When Westenhoefer delivers her stand-up, it feels like laughing with a close friend over drinks. Her jokes are relatable to daily life – funny because they're true. And that's how it's always been, she's always been funny and the stand-up thing just made it official.

Comedy over drinks makes a lot more sense when you learn about Westenhoefer's comedic beginnings. "I was working as a bartender in New Jersey and people would come in and tell me that I was funny,

Westenhoefer says. "But I was openly gay, and it was the 90s. They said I should go and be a stand-up, but I said 'You can't be openly gay and do stand-up.' But I got the nerve in 1990 and entered a contest, a new stand-up contest that I won $20. Then it just really took off."

Her stand-up career didn't just take off, it rocketed. "It happened so fast. I went from getting up and winning this little contest in July 1990 to having my own HBO special and headlining around the country in 1994," says Westenhoefer. "It went very fast, so I almost didn't get a chance to think about it. I was just getting work and people loved it. I was very excited."

Frequently crowned the 'first gay comedian,' Westenhoefer's sexuality just happened to be part of her stand-up from the beginning. "My comedy was always gay," Westenhoefer says. "If I do jokes about my dogs and cat, it's not really a gay joke. But I'm a gay person with a gay partner and we have animals. Just because of that it's a gay joke. It's not so specific that straight people won't get it. If I do relationship humor, which I do quite a bit, I'm fighting with a woman, I'm not fighting with a guy. So that makes it gay. But the truth is, a lot of the stuff that we're fighting about or talking about isn't all that different."

Being out was never something Westenhoefer questioned. "I had already been an activist," says Westenhoefer. "I came out in the early 80s. There was no way that I was going to all of the sudden do stand-up and pretend that I had a boyfriend. It just wasn't my style."

Although Westenhoefer was comfortable with being out, she recognizes that it may have impacted her stand-up, not that she cares. "I'm sure that it hurt my career, but I'm sure that it helped, Westenhoefer says. "And in the end it's about being comfortable and being OK with the way you did things."

The people around Westenhoefer in the beginning were aware of how her sexuality might impact her career. "It was 1991 and people thought I was very funny and they cared about me and they wanted me to be a success," says Westenhoefer. "They thought they knew that my being openly gay would keep me off of television. They said it with love; they weren't trying to be homophobic. But they really thought there was no way that I would be on television."

Westenhoefer proved them wrong, she had her own HBO special in 1994, she's release numerous comedy CDs, and she continues to perform nationally.

"I had a very fortunate early career," Westenhoefer says. "I'm insecure like every other comic, but I was never disheartened." Except, well maybe a little, she goes on to explain. Just before Ellen DeGeneres decided to come out, Westenhoefer had been working with different production companies on some television projects. When DeGeneres decided to come out, those fell through.

"Once I realized that Ellen was going to come out and she was going to do it, and that I wasn't going to be able to do it, that was sort of a bummer," says Westenhoefer. "But I was such an activist, that I was really happy. I knew that her coming out was going to be huge. And it was. And it did a great big, giant leap for us."

Westenhoefer is still an activist, but now she gets to do it from behind the stand-up mic. "As a comedian, we comment on it all I definitely try to get people fired up to go out and make change," she says.

There is a certain raw honesty to Westenhoefer's comedy, but because it's so natural for her, she doesn't even notice. "I never felt like I ever had to revise myself," says Westenhoefer. "I don't think many comics do. I mean, in order to do stand-up, you have to believe, right or wrong, that you're good. Or you would never be able to do it."

Westenhoefer really believes that she's good. If she didn't, if the comedy thing hadn't have panned out, she thinks she knows what she'd be doing instead. "I would the funniest bartender at the Hula Hands in Secaucus, New Jersey," says Westenhoefer. "Maybe by now I'd be bar manager."

Instead of slinging drinks, Westenhoefer is gearing up to be the headliner in November 2009 on the maiden voyage of Sweet, a new lesbian travel company. She's also working on a new lesbian drama web series, We Have to Stop Now, on which she plays a therapist.

"This is the greatest job in the world," Westenhoefer says. And you can't help but believe her.

Suzanne Westenhoefer will be performing Saturday, January 10 at 8 p.m. at Crest Theater (1013 K Street) with special guest Kate Gaffney. Tickets are $27 in advance, or $30 on the day of the show. For more information, visit Squarepegconcerts.com. Tickets are available at Tickets.com.

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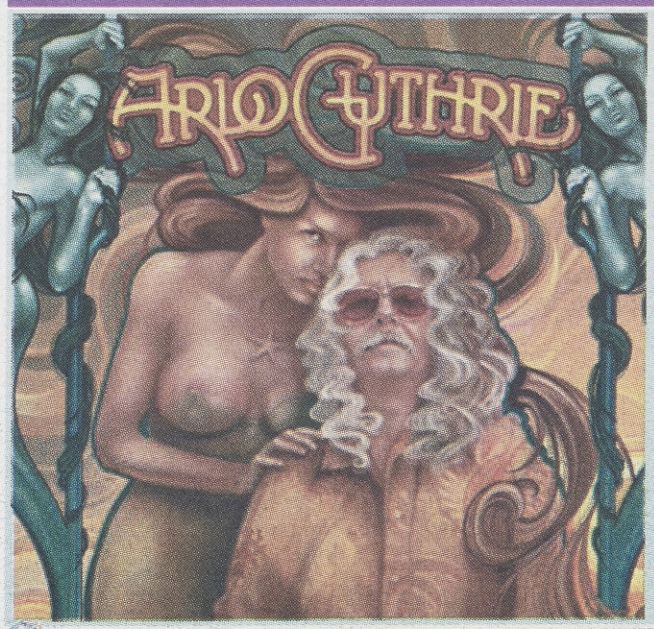

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Happy Holidays and happy New Year! This has been a busy month and to is seems the holiday season arrived so quickly—it is just crazy! This is my favorite time of year. I put the Christmas music on and "deck the halls".

It's a time for me to be thankful for my family and friends, and also the time for the kid in me to come out—after all I *do* still believe in Santa Claus! Christmas shopping is one of the fun things to do during the holiday season and I enjoy going to the malls and department stores and being in the crowds of people running around looking for gifts. It is a great feeling!

The day after Thanksgiving, where I had a great time at my parents house and a *fabulous* dinner, I went to Walmart to shop at 5am when the sales started. "Black Friday" was crazy! There had to have been over a thousand people there at 5am ready to get those sales. Well, I got the new HP desktop and printer that I wanted and grabbed a TV/VCR recorder combo on the way out.

I was a little frightened when they said "it's 5am" and everyone started going insane but I made it back home safe.

During December I also had an addition to my family. I gave birth to a tiny one pound baby toy Chihuahua! He is so cute (as you can see from the picture below of him). He fits right in with my other two who took a great liking to him so quickly.

December 15 was the semi-finals for the Monique Moore's Got Talent Search at FACES Nightclub. There were eight

contestants competing in round 2 of the competition, so far we have had two rapping groups, four singers, a dancer and a piano player qualify to compete in semi-finals. The winner and second place will have go on to compete in the finals against the contestants from round one. I'll tell you all about it next issue! Good luck to all!

There goes the end of that competition, but who knows maybe I will host "FACES Next Top Singer" a spin off of America's Next Top Model". It seems that people love to come out and enter contests that are currently being held on television.

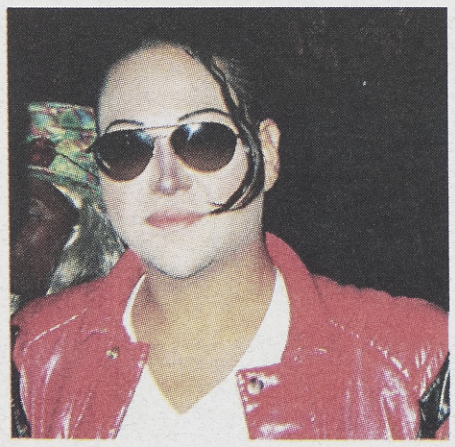
The Dragalicious Show on Sunday nights is going well. I love entertaining my audience every Sunday night at 9pm. I am so blessed to have a fabulous cast of entertainers who are like a family and work so well with one another—thank God. It's hard to work with men in dresses because everyone wants to be the diva, but there can only be one (laughing).

This December there have been two tragic losses of friends and family. The reigning Mr. Gay Sacramento-At-Large, my "Drag Son" Spade Moore lost his mother "Cupcake" due to cancer. The girls in our show donated all of our tips one Sunday night to help funeral costs. I want to thank all of the audience members who tipped and donated that night so generously.

Also, in December, I lost a really good friend of mine who I have known for years: past Miss Gay Sacramento "Kitty De La Flor" (pictured above). I and others are still in shock of her passing because none of us knew she was extremely ill. I will miss her dearly and see her in Heaven one day.

Below are pictures of me on Halloween where I was Michael Jackson, me with the Hot Rods crew and at Badlands on a Saturday night where I took a pic with the favorite gay from the Anna Nicole Smith Show, Bobby Trendy.

The holidays are a time to reflect on the past year and the memories that help us grow—whether they are good or bad.Be thankful for every day and live each day as if it is your last. Find the good in life; it will lead you in the direction you want to go. Please be safe on New Year's Eve—I will be celebrating and watching the ball drop at FACES and hope to see you all there partying it up! This is The Fabulous Mizz Monique Moore Just Keeping It Real!



HIV TESTING GUIDELINES POSE CONCERN FOR SACRAMENTO'S CCAF

BY JOYCE MITCHELL

Sacramento Fundraising agency Capital City AIDS Fund (CCAF) would like to see their services no longer needed. However, that won't be the case anytime soon. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), recommendations for routine HIV testing for people between the ages of 13 and 64, for the most part, are not being followed.

Testing is an important step in slowing the spread of HIV/AIDS. Of the 1.1 million people living with the virus in the United States, one in five is unaware they are infected. These people are responsible for transmitting 50 to 70 percent of new sexually transmitted cases.

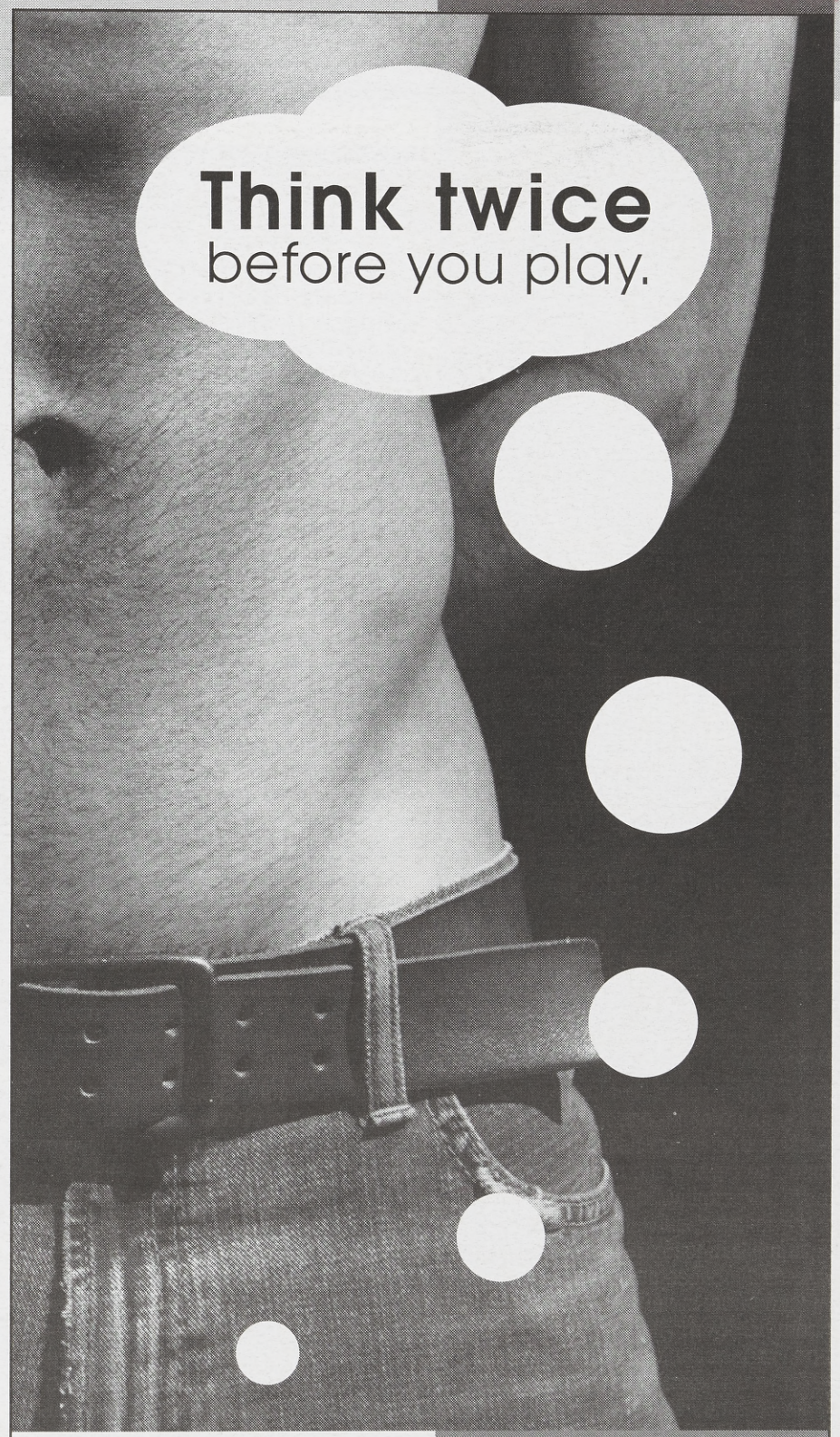
"CCAF raises and distributes money to Sacramento non-profit HIV/AIDS organizations providing services to people infected and affected by the virus," said CCAF President Stuart Eldridge. "We also support testing and educational services since no one has to get AIDS today. It is one-hundred percent preventable."

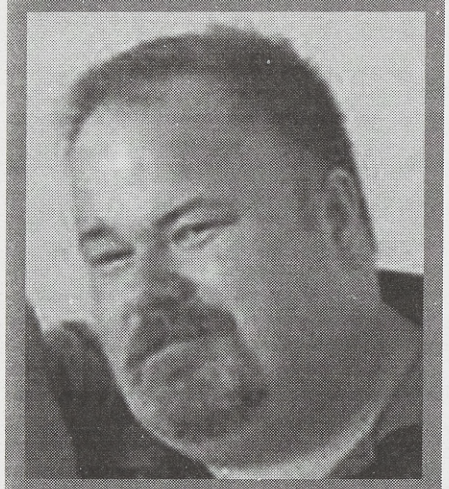
However, Eldridge said that to stop AIDS, people must get tested and know their status. Two years ago, the CDC recommended routine testing. At a recent conference it was disclosed that the guidelines are generally not being followed. One of the main reasons reportedly is that clinicians believe the tests take too much time. There's also a misconception that health insurers are unwilling to pay for the tests. Saliva tests, followed by a blood test for confirmation, are relatively inexpensive costing between 80 and 120 dollars if the patient is charged.

Recognizing the importance of the work CCAF is doing, Wells Fargo Bank announced this month it is again committing a sizeable amount of money to the organization. "We are pleased that Wells Fargo is coming on board a major sponsor," Eldridge said. "Without their support, it would definitely be more difficult to continue our mission especially in this challenging economic times."

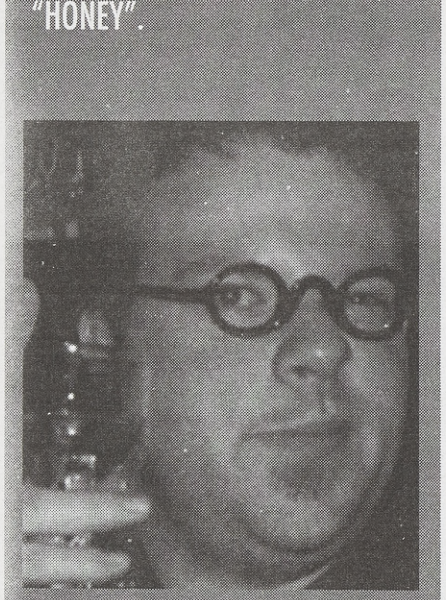
CCAF was created more than a decade ago to unify HIV/AIDS fundraising in the Sacramento region. The non-profit entity puts on three major events each year. Oscar Night Sacramento will be held February 22nd, 2009, the NorCal AIDS Challenge, a regional cycling event, kicks off May 14th, 2009, and the Sacramento Valley AIDS Run/Walk is slated for September 9, 2009.

"Our agency is primarily volunteer run and we want to not only help slow the spread of the virus through education and testing, we also want to make sure that people living with HIV/AIDS receive the services they need," said Eldridge. "We are grateful for the generosity of our sponsors and everyone who steps up to help. Our future is predicated on the public recognizing the HIV/AIDS is everyone's responsibility and that the pandemic needs to be controlled."





TOM SWANNER HAS BEEN A FILM REVIEWER FOR 10+ YEARS. HE LIVES IN SACRAMENTO WITH HIS 25-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND SEAN AND THEIR GROSSLY OBESE DAUGHTER (READ DOG) "HONEY".



BRIAN JUDD HAS BEEN A FILM REVIEWER FOR 6 YEARS. HE LIVES IN SMALL APARTMENT WHERE A PORTRAIT OF ANITA BRYANT HANGS OVER HIS BED SO HE CAN POINT AT HER AND LAUGH DAILY. HE IS ALONE AND BITTER AND LIKES IT THAT WAY.

SWANNER & JUDD

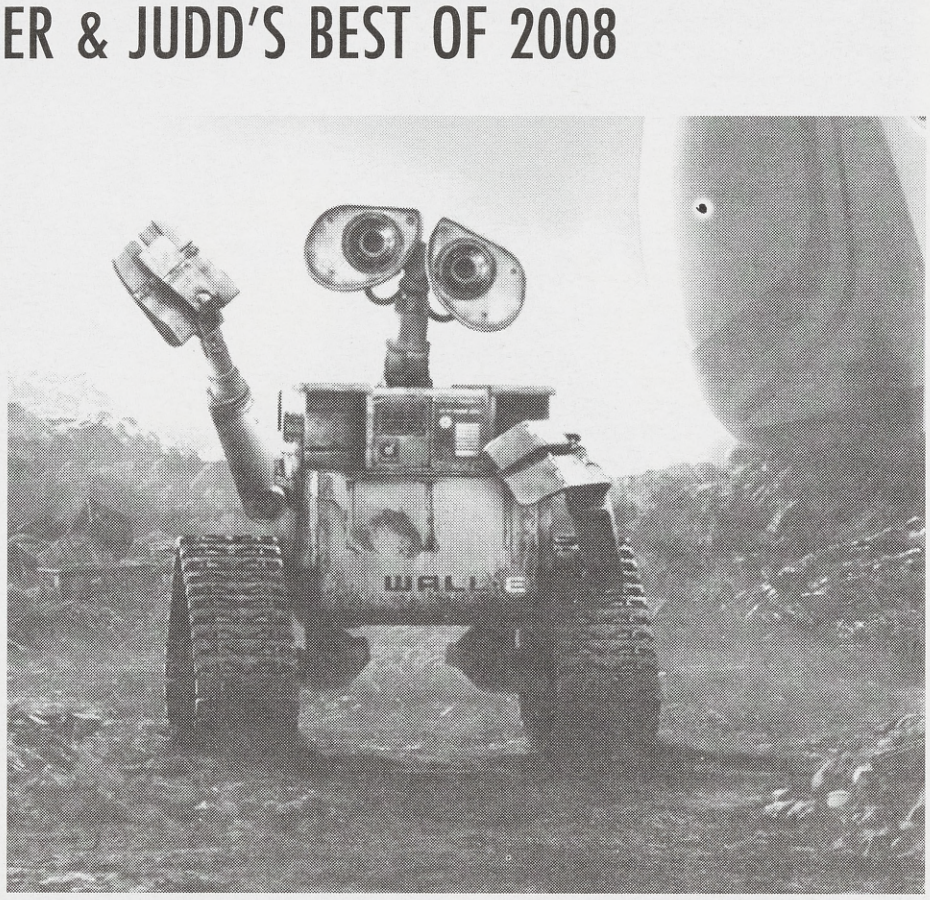
SWANNERANDJUDD.COM

SWANNER & JUDD'S BEST OF 2008

Swanner: I love this time of the year. The weather, the shopping, the cocktails but mostly I love that I get to share my opinion on what I thought was the best movies of the year...OK, after a few cocktails. I really did like a lot of movies this year. My worst list is going to be much harder to construct. Of course, Brian will have nothing on his best list because he's a dick. So I'm starting out with 27 Dresses. This was my favorite romantic comedy this year. I Loved Katherine Heigl and James Marsden in this sweet funny movie. Props go out to Judy Greer for making a supporting role so memorable. Heigl plays a woman who is always the preverbal bride's maid.

Judd: What kind of intro is that? Are you looking to piss me off right off the bat? I'm a dick? "F" you! Of course you started your list with 27 Dresses because you're a big fat girl. My favorite Romantic Comedy this year was Forgetting Sarah Marshall. It's a hilarious look at breaking up featuring hysterical performances from Jason Segel, Kristen Bell, Russell Brand, and Jason Segel's penis.

Swanner: I have to agree on Jason's penis...talk about great supporting performances. Years from now, when people talk about the great movies of 2008...Milk will be on most if not all lists. Milk tells the story of the life and death of Harvey Milk, the San Francisco supervisor that was killed by fellow supervisor Dan White. This movie is great across the board. Direction, writing, technically and amazing performances crowned by Sean Penn's Harvey Milk. If you ever doubt why everyone praises every role that Sean Penn plays...watch Milk and its all there.



Judd: I have to agree with you about Milk, but the unfortunate thing is that there was another film that made its debut around the same time that got overlooked because of Milk, and that was Slumdog Millionaire. It is an excellent, excellent film. The reason I love this movie so much is because the story is so simple, but director Danny Boyle uses locations, colors, sounds and music to turn it into a lush, compelling, tragic story of a boy surviving in the poorest parts of India. And the ending is tear-worthy.

Swanner: The funniest movie for me this year was Zack and Miri make a porno. I can't get me enough Kevin Smith movies and you toss the ever sexy Seth Rogan into the equation...who could ask for more. I loved the raw sexuality, great script and some very funny performances. This was the film that first got a NC17 rating and believe me...I'm hoping the DVD is the way the director wanted it.

Judd: Funniest comedy for me, this year, had to be Pineapple Express, which starred Seth Rogen and James Franco – both have shown up twice on our list. Interesting. I liked Pineapple Express because it blurred the lines between stoner film and buddy-action film. It had excellent dialogue, very funny scenes, and some seriously wicked violence. What's not to love?

Swanner: Seth Rogan...yum. I also enjoyed Pineapple express 'cause the last 15 minutes of the movie Seth Rogan was just wearing briefs. As a matter of fact my next movie also has the voice of Seth Rogan, Spiderwick Chronicles was really a fun action adventure for the family. About three kids that move into a house surrounded by a forest filled with fairies and other mystical creatures. Seth plays Hogsqueal and we'll just leave it at that.

Judd: Since Spiderwick Chronicles has a fancy name, I have to choose a movie with a fancy name… Brideshead Revisited. I'm not picking Brideshead only because of it's name, though. I truly believe that it was one of the best movies of the summer and of the year. Classic actress Emma Thompson, and newcomers Ben Whishaw and Matthew Goode star in a sordid, yet dignified in a British way, story of a family's struggle with alcoholism, homosexuality, religion and land. The scenery was beautiful, the acting was excellent, and Whishaw and Goode make a gorgeous couple.

Swanner: I agree it was a wonderful movie but those two boys needed a sandwich or something. They were both disturbingly thin. Finally, my favorite movie of the year was WALL-E. The story of the last surviving robot on earth that finds love through the songs of Jerry Herman. Okay, there's a lot more going on here but it's an amazing film that slaps us in the our environmental face and says were too fat, too lazy and we don't have any consideration for the planet we abuse. They do it all with out many people realizing they've be kicked in the butt till they are in the car going home. This marks the second year in a row that the genius's at Pixar have made my favorite movie. Ratatouille topped my list last year.

Judd: My favorite film of the year was In Bruges. This is an independent Irish film starring Colin Farrell, Ralph Fiennes and Brendan Gleeson. The film is about two hit men, sent away to a small town in Belgium called Bruges after one of their jobs got botched. The movie is extremely funny, witty, violent, offensive, and weird—all with the breathtaking backdrop of Bruges. In Bruges is one of those hidden gems that comes and goes with very little fanfare, but will continue to grow by word of mouth.

Swanner: That's what I was saying, it was a really good year for movies. Next time around we'll be talking about the movies we hated.

SONYA COX HAS BEEN MGW'S HIV/AIDS EDITOR SINCE 1986 (22 YEARS). SHE BEGAN AT MGW AS A VOLUNTEER PROOFREADER BEFORE BEGINNING THE HIV NEWSWIRE COLUMN. SHE ALSO BEGAN THE "IN LOVING MEMORY" COLUMN IN EARLY 1993 (15 YEARS AGO). THE JUNE 1993 COLUMN CONTAINED 6 NAMES; JUNE 2008 CONTAINED 77. THE ENTIRE YEAR'S LIST NOW CONTAINS OVER 1000 NAMES–MOST BEING DEATHS FROM HIV.

BREAKING BARRIERS: PROVIDES A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV. 2200 21ST ST., 916-447-2437, BREAKINGBARRIERS-SACRAMENTO.ORG

CAPITAL CITY AIDS FUND: RAISES MONEY FOR HIV/AIDS SERVICES IN THE SAC. AREA. CAPCITYAIDSFUND.ORG

CARES: HIV/AIDS HEALTH CLINIC, OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND PREVENTION. FREE, RAPID HIV TESTING M-F 9AM TO 5PM. 1500 21ST ST., 916-443-3299 CARESCLINIC.ORG

GOLDEN RULE SERVICES: A MINORITY BASED ORGANIZATION THAT RESOLVES HEALTH, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE DISPARITIES IN PEOPLE OF COLOR. 4433 FLORIN ROAD, SUITE 760. 916-427-GOLD, GOLDENRULES.INFO

NORCAL AIDS CHALLENGE: (MAY 15-18, 2009) A 4-DAY, 330 MILE BIKE RIDE TO RAISE FUNDS AND AWARENESS FOR HIV/AIDS NORCALAIDSCHALLENGE.NET

SACRAMENTO VALLEY AIDS RUN/WALK: SEPT. 916-448-1110, SACVALLEYAIDSRUNWALK.ORG

SAC. VALLEY POZABILITIES: HIV+ SOCIAL GROUP. SACVALLEYPOZABILITIES@YAHOO.COM, PO BOX 161871, SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-1871

SIERRA HOPE: PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV & AIDS. SIERRA HOPE, 1168 BOOSTER WAY, P.O. BOX 159, ANGELS CAMP, CA, 95222, 209.736.6792, SIERRAHOPE.ORG

SUNBURST PROJECTS: PROVIDING SUPPORT TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO ARE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS. 1025 19TH STREET, SUITE 1A, 916-440-0889, SUNBURSTPROJECTS.ORG

SACRAMENTO APPROVES MEDICAL MARIJUANA ID CARDS...

Sacramento County supervisors have finally voted to issue medicinal pot identification cards to those suffering from nausea or loss of appetite due to their medications, or other side effects of cancer, HIV and other illnesses. Sacramento is among the last of the state's 58 counties to do so – more than 25 years into the HIV epidemic. The county says that as soon as they physically obtain the cards, and train staff, the program should begin -- perhaps as early as January 2009.

In other counties, applicants or caregivers must apply in person at the health department, fill out the program application and registry, and bring with them (1) a government-issued photo ID, (2) proof of residency (DMV driver's license, utility bill, rent receipt, etc.), and (3) medical documentation such as an original prescription completed by a qualified attending physician. (See the Dept of Public Health website for more on the Medical Marijuana Program [MMP] -- www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/MMP.)

NEW HEP-C DRUG SHOWS GREAT PROMISE...

The investigational Hepatitis C drug Boceprevir appears to provide response rates that are nearly double those seen with other treatments, say researchers reporting at a recent liver-diseases conference. The high response rates are very exciting, said the scientist from Indiana University who led the HCV trial, especially since the type of virus specifically studied is the most common and the hardest to treat.

Nearly 600 people were randomly tested, some using current drugs, some using Boceprevir in combination with other drugs, etc. Those who used current treatments alone had a response rate of 38 percent, while those who received current treatments plus Boceprevir for an additional 44 weeks had a response rate of 74 percent. The side effects were similar in both categories.

The researcher said he would hope the continued therapy could actually "cure" some people of the disease after 48 weeks of treatment. Already, he said, "We've seen a dramatic reversal of fibrosis and, in some cases, a reversal of cirrhosis."

NEW FUNGAL TREATMENT POTENT BUT EFFECTIVE...

Fungal infections can become extremely dangerous for people with weakened immune systems. Standard treatments have included Itraconazole, Fluconazole, Amphotericin B, and Voriconazole. Scientists recently re-analyzed the effects of these treatment regimens, and their conclusions reinforced earlier findings that Voriconazole (V-FEND) may be the most effective treatment overall for the broad range of fungal infections, including those caused by Candida.

The researchers, from the U.S., U.K., and New Zealand, concluded that, "Voriconazole exhibits high potency in vitro against a wide range of yeast species. It is notably more active than Fluconazole in terms of both potency and spectrum, but shows similar activity to Itraconazole against most yeasts." Researchers have previously noted that Voriconazole results in less severe side effects, and that having to switch from other drugs, such as Amp-B, because of intolerance or insufficient response, emphasizes the choice of Voriconazole as the initial therapy.

GILEAD SUES TEVA OVER PATENT...

Bio-tech firm Gilead Sciences recently announced it has filed a patent infringement lawsuit to block Isreal-based Teva Pharmaceutical Industries from making a generic version of the AIDS drug Truvada (a combo pill consisting of Emtriva and Viread/Tenofovir, taken once a day). In November, Teva asked the Food & Drug Administration to approve its generic copy of Truvada, claiming two of the ten patents covering Gilead's brand-name drug are unenforceable, not valid, and would not constitute infringement by the generic. Both patents relate to Emtriva.

Gilead, located in Foster City CA, says the patents do not expire until 2021, and filed their lawsuit in US District Court in New York. The suit stops the FDA's regulatory and approval process for up to 30 months or until a court rules on the validity of the patents.

ANAL SEX AMONG TEENS ON THE RISE...

Experts say anal sex is becoming more prevalent among heterosexual teens and young adults, and they worry that the practice is leading to more STD infections in the U.S. In a study of 1,348 at-risk youths ages 15 to 21 in three U.S. cities, researchers at the Bradley Hasbro Children's Research Center found that 16 percent of participants (215) reported recent heterosexual anal intercourse. "Given the subject matter, it is likely that the numbers reported may actually be an underestimate of the prevalence of these behaviors," said a study spokesperson.

"There is no doubt that teens lack information about STDs and the safety of different behaviors, and they are engaging in more sexual experimentation," said a Columbia University professor. "They don't think you can get a disease from it because you're not having intercourse."

Researchers cite a number of reasons the practice is becoming more common, including fear of pregnancy, the desire to preserve virginity, and the popularity of anal sex in pornography. A 2005 study found that, while teens who took virginity pledges had sex at a later age and had fewer partners overall, they were still more likely to have oral and anal sex, and less likely to use condoms.

FRESNO TO BEGIN PILOT NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM...

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors has approved a one-year pilot needle exchange program that will also offer substance abuse counseling, referrals, and free HIV and Hepatitis C checkups. It was designed by the county public health officer, and supported by the state Office of AIDS. This brings to 17 the number of municipalities in California that are legally operating needle exchange programs.

"We can reach so many more people," said a member of the Fresno Needle Exchange, which has been openly operating an illegal program for 13 years in which volunteers distribute as many as 8,000 sterile needles per week, and receive that many dirty ones for safe disposal.

Of the county's estimated 15,000 injection drug users, it's thought that more than 11,000 probably have hepatitis C, according to a 2005 study. Dr. Mark Lasher, who has been providing free medical care to clients of the underground program, will continue his services with the legal, county-endorsed program.

NYC LATINAS AND CATHOLICS HELP LAUNCH CONDOM ADS...

In a somewhat surprising source of support, Catholics for Choice and the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health joined forces recently to produce Spanish-language radio ads aimed at promoting condom use among Latinos. The Condoms4Life ads ran for two weeks in December in New York City, and the Latina Institute director said their goal is to secure enough funding so more ads can roll out in other US markets next year. She said the ads were prompted by the rise in HIV infections among Latinos nationwide (17 percent of all new US HIV cases as of 2006), and the family-oriented structure of the ads seems to resonate well within the Catholic and Latino communities.

One of the ads features a grandmother talking about her gay grandson: "My grandson came to me and told me he was in love with a man. Later he told me he heard that, like a good Catholic, he wasn't supposed to use a condom," the woman says. "I told him, 'Go ahead son…and if you love that man, you will also take care

of him. Make sure you use a condom.' I am a Catholic woman and for me there isn't anything more important than protecting the family and love; that's why I talked to my grandson about condoms."

DC'S WHITMAN-WALKER CLINIC MOVES OUT...

After 21 years at its well-known NW location, Washington DC's Whitman-Walker Clinic has had to vacate its building and move operations to smaller quarters two blocks south of its original site. The nonprofit HIV/AIDS health care organization sold its Administrative Facility for $8 million in order to curtail mounting debt.

IRELAND VOLUNTARY REPORTING DOESN'T WORK...

About 15 percent of the 1770 HIV infections confirmed by Ireland's Virus Reference Laboratory over the last five years were not included in official figures published by the country's Health Protection Surveillance Center, according to a recent report to the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Surveillance reporting by physicians is currently voluntary. Mandatory notification is an important first step to managing Ireland's HIV epidemic, said the speaker. "I think," he said, "there is certainly enough evidence to suggest that the current system is not working as well as it could or should."

IN LOVING MEMORY OF FRIENDS LOST IN JANUARY

JANUARY 1986:
RAY WINTREE

JANUARY 1987:
HERB FINGER
KEVIN WULFERT

JANUARY 1988:
HAL MERRITT
DAN BORNTRAGER

JANUARY 1989:
TERRY PENNINGTON
KENNETH MORRISON
TIMOTHY SCOTT SHEPHERD
WILLIAM R. SIMMONS

JANUARY 1990:
ROBERT WINCHESTER
PETER MASSMAN
ROB ROY FRISCH
BILL GILLIAM

JANUARY 1991:
JEFF FOWLER
TERRY HOLME
PETER DAVID LUCERO
JOHN PADDOCK

GERALD O'BRIEN
PAUL BARNES
GREGORY HARLAN

JANUARY 1992:
LANCE BROWN
RUTH SMITH
CHUCK KITLINGER
MICHAEL SCOTT OLSON
HERMAN ADAMS, JR.
MALIK SPRINGS

JANUARY 1993:
GEORGE WHITFIELD
JEAN ANDERSON
CHRIS BOLTON
FRAN FINDLEY
JOSEPH TORRES
GLENN OLSON
JIMMIE HILDEBRAND
BOB FOTI
LARRY PALADINI

JANUARY 1994:
RANDY GRAY
RON DRAKE
MICHAEL ROSENBERG
SCOTT HOLKKO

HUGH HAYES
DALE REZABEK
GREGORY FREEDER
PATRICK BUTLER
JIM HATTON
JAMES HUTTON
FRANK ZADNIK
RON HARMON
MARK BAPTISTA
BILL MILLER
DAVID FITHIAN
LEON KAUFMAN
JAMES GRAVES
GREGORY RENOUF

JANUARY 1995
PAUL STARR-FUHR
SEAN HOAG
SCOTT ALDERSON
PAUL HAYES
CHRISTOPHER LOGAN
TONY GONZALES
CHUCK T.
LLOYD WHITE
JESSE S.
STEVEN LOREN YARDLEY

JANUARY 1996:

WILLIAM WOMACK
ROBERT GILBERT
DR. ROBERT WALTER
DARYL SEIBEL
KATHLEEN THOMAS
ANDRE SMITH
ELSWORTH ENSLEY
BILL J.
JAMES CORREGAN
ELLIOTT S.
BRIAN B.
JOSEPH TWYMAN
BILLY HILDEBRAND
MICHAEL BOWENS

JANUARY 1997:
GREGORY ESTEP

JANUARY 1998:
JOHN B.
ROBB WENDELL CAMPBELL

JANUARY 1999:
STEVE DOLAN
GARY HAYES GROFF
REV. MERRILL FOLLANSBEE
ERIC KELLER

JANUARY 2000:
WILLIAM KNUDSON
BRADLEY LONG

JANUARY 2001:
LORI JAEGER

JANUARY 2002:
ALTA MAE REDONDO
DAVID BAKER

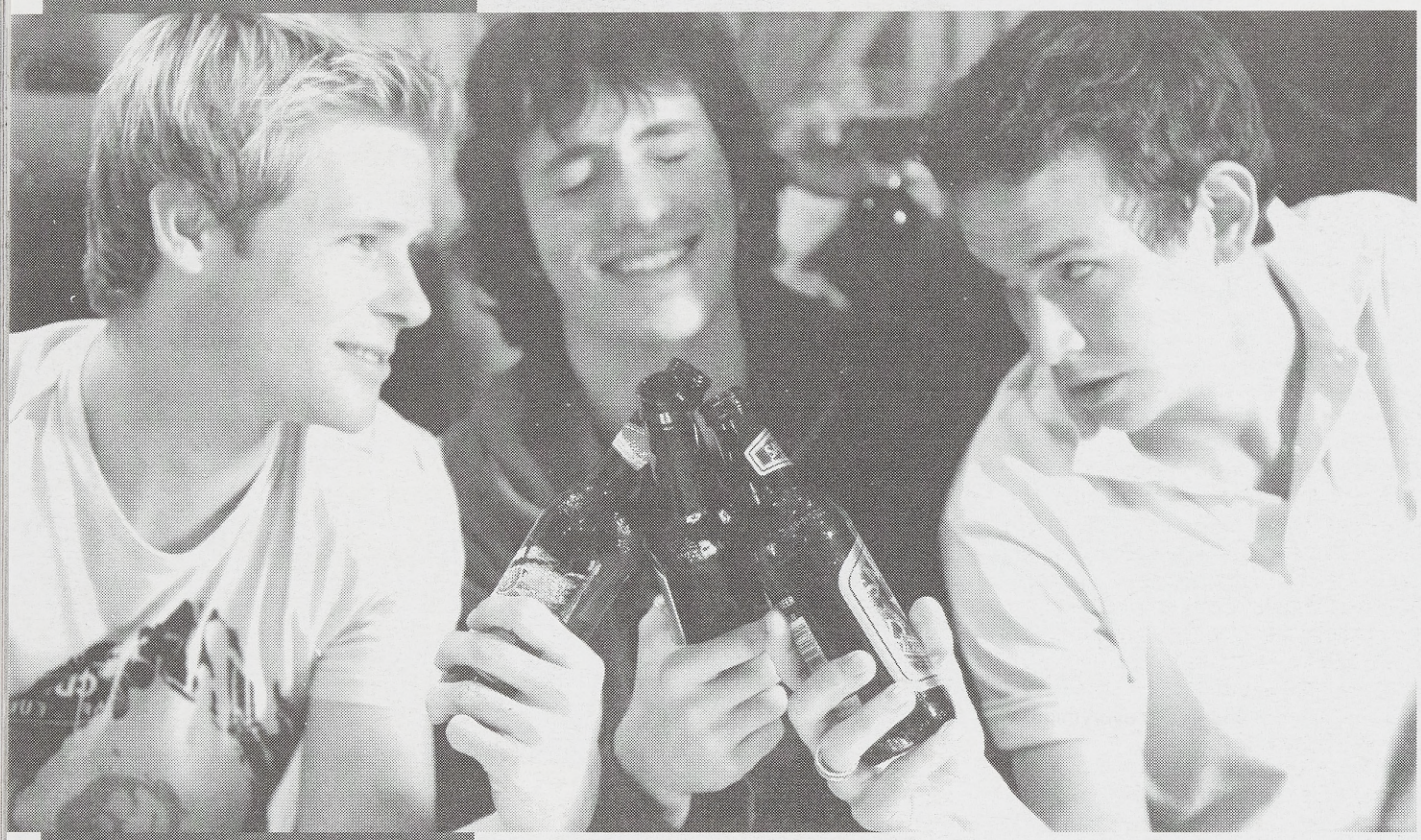
JANUARY 2003:
MIKE BENNETT
NYANZA TURNER
SCOTT FRANKLIN CRAIG
GAIL FITZPATRICK
KEVIN GREENDYKE

JANUARY 2004:
ISAAC BRUCKER

YEAR UNKNOWN:
ROBERT ANDERSON
RUDY BENAVIDES
LEE BETTINGER
MIKE BIRNEY

THOUGH NOTHING CAN BRING BACK THE HOUR OF SPLENDOR IN THE GRASS,
OF GLORY IN THE FLOWER, WE WILL GRIEVE NOT,
BUT RATHER, FIND STRENGTH IN WHAT REMAINS BEHIND.

TO ADD THE NAMES OF LOVED ONES TO MGW'S REMEMBRANCE COLUMN, OR CLARIFY YEAR UNKNOWN, CALL 737-0309.



BOYS BRIEFS 5: SCHOOLBOYS

PICTURETHISENT.COM

Loathe to break with tradition, Picture This! Home Video has added an on-camera host to its upcoming BOYS BRIEFS 5: SCHOOLBOYS compilation DVD

The tradition began with the very first DVD edition of BOYS BRIEFS back in 1999, when Michael Saucedo and Jason Tobin performed the honors. Saucedo went on to star in General Hospital and Tobin went on to star in BETTER LUCK TOMORROW and THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT (among many other credits). After that, Danny Roberts of MTV's The Real World: New Orleans hosted Boys Briefs 2.

Picture This! Entertainment's talent director found 19-year-old Oscar Peralta out on the town in Hollywood one night this month, where his smoldering good looks and charming personality stood out from the crowd. After an on-camera audition with many other candidates culled from a three-month-long search, Peralta was selected in large part for his refreshing sincerity and warmth. His task: to introduce and provide context for the six outstanding short films included in the current incarnation of the BOYS BRIEFS series.

Befitting his "schoolboy" moniker, Peralta actually attends college in Southern California, where he studies advertising and liberal arts. If his thoughtful, earnest nature is any indication, Peralta's dream of seeing his designs on billboards and in magazines should be realized in the future.

Always curating its short film compilations around a central theme, Picture This! Home Video in the past has focused its DVDs on Gay First Love (BOYS BRIEFS), Gay First Lust (BOYS BRIEFS 2), Hooking Up (BOYS BRIEFS 3), and Hustlers (BOYS BRIEFS 4). This time around, the subject is "School And College Age Youth".

The pedigreed shorts in this collection have made their mark in film festivals around the world and speak to that formative time in everyone's life when one false move can change absolutely everything. The films appear in the following order:

The first film is Soman Chainani's KALI MA (16 min.), which won the Audience Award at the Philadelphia, NewFest, ImageOut (Rochester), and Long Island International Gay and Lesbian Film Festivals. It also won the Jury Award for Best Short Film at the Rainbow (Honolulu) Int'l GLBT Festival.

It played a long list of festivals including MethodFest (Los Angeles), Berlinale Talent Campus, Valladolid, Seattle, Provincetown, Palm Springs Festival of Short Films and the following Gay/Lesbian festivals: Miami, Melbourne, Sydney Mardi Gras, Warsaw, Frameline31 (San Francisco), North Carolina, Milwaukee, Lisbon, Austin, Tampa, Copenhagen, Barcelona, Madrid and others.

When a suburban mom finds out her son is the victim of a vicious bully, she delivers her own brand of vigilante justice.

Starring popular Bollywood star Kamini Khanna (MONSOON WEDDING), this follow-up to the director's acclaimed 2006 short DAVY & STU plunges us into a battle of mythic proportions, where we explore not only the secrets that divide mothers and sons but also the love that binds them together.

Next comes Norwegian director Magnus Mork's FLATMATES (21 min). It was an official selection of the 2008 Berlin International Film Festival as well as a long list of gay film festivals including Outfest, Miami, Austin, Philadelphia, NewFest, InsideOut, Reeling (Chicago), Seattle and numerous international festivals.

Bjo'rn and Hampus move into an apartment. They have a strong friendship despite the fact that they are quite different characters. But under the surface, something is amiss. This is a film about being in love with your best friend and about the dividing line between tenderness and abuse.

The film swept the 2007 Oslo Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, winning the Audience Award and Jury Award for Best Short Film.

Los Angeles-based director Jeff Warden's SECRETS (15 min.), which deals with college students at a small party exploring erotic asphyxiation, comes to Boys Briefs 5 as the winner of the Best Short Film Award at the Hollywood HD Film Festival.

One Night... five teens... a deck of cards. And a belt.

The film has played the Philadelphia, NewFest and Out! (Hamptons Road) Gay/Lesbian Film Festivals as well as The Other Venice Film Festival, Indie Can Film Festival (Toronto) and the 2007 UCLA Festival of New Creative Works. Warden is himself a recipient of the 2007 Carl David Memorial Fellowship.

The next film: 2007 Outfest selection yeah no definitely (sic) (14 min.).

Meet Cam and Kiff—two boisterous college kids in an intense platonic relationship. While Cam expertly suppresses his emotions, something is definitely eating away at him.

The film stars Vincent Piazza, an actor who appeared regularly on The Sopranos as AJ's dark-haired, club-hopping friend Hernan. Lauded for his role in the 2007 Sundance Film Festival award-winner ROCKET SCIENCE, Piazza also appears in the 2008 Sundance selection ASSASSINATION OF A HIGH SCHOOL PRESIDENT.

After that comes Brazilian director Daniel Ribeiro's highly acclaimed, multi-award winning YOU, ME & HIM (CAFE' COM LEITE) (18 min.), which captured the Crystal Bear Award at this year's Berlin International Film Festival.

Male lovers Danilo and Marcos commit to moving in together. But plans change when Danilo's parents die in a car crash and Danilo finds himself caring for his 10-year-old brother. Now Danilo's biggest concerns are making sure a little boy gets to school on time and drinks enough milk. Can the three guys become a family? Or will responsibility force Danilo and Marcos apart?

The film screened at this year's Palm Springs Int'l Festival of Short Films as well as numerous gay film festivals including NewFest (New York), Frameline32 (San Francisco), Milwaukee, Dayton, Reel Affirmations (Washington DC) and InsideOut (Toronto). Its list of prizes includes the jury Award for Best Short Film at this year's

Brazilian Film Festival of Miami and the Audience Award for Best Short Film at this year's Turin Gay and Lesbian Film Festival;

From Norway and rounding out the list is BENNY'S GYM (25 min.), an official selection of the 2007 Berlin International Film Festival, the 2007 Palm Springs Int'l Festival of Short Films, the 2008 Sprockets / Toronto International Film Festival for Children and the 2007 Spokane International Film Festival.

Young Alfred finds himself constantly bullied by the other boys at school, including Benny, who apparently wants a tattoo. Alfred draws one on Benny's arm in secret, and this marks the beginning of an initially reluctant, eventually warm relationship between the boys, a relationship that at all costs must be kept secret.

The only film in this collection directed by a woman (Lisa Marie Gamlem), BENNY'S GYM has seen North American gay film festival play in: Dayton, NewFest, Out Film (Connecticut), Southwest, ImageOut, Philadelphia, and Milwaukee.

SACRAMENTO GAY & LESBIAN center

Proudly serving the LGBT community

The past few months have been rocky ones for our community! We celebrated the historic election of our nation's first African American president, only to have our hearts broken as a narrow majority of Californians voted to strip us of our right to marry the person of our choice. Along with the rest of our nation and world, we are struggling to cope as jobs vanish, incomes decline and public services dwindle.

Through it all, the Center has continued caring for and supporting the LGBT people of the Greater Sacramento region, just as we have for the past 22 years.

Here are just a few of the people the Center has helped since the No on 8 campaign was launched:

A high school student who thought of committing suicide when his traditional Hispanic family shunned him after he told them he is gay. At the Center, he found other teens who have faced similar challenges and supportive trained facilitators who helped him realize life is worth living after all.

A man who after decades of marriage finally admitted to his wife and to himself that he was gay and moved to Sacramento to start a new life. At the Center, he found a weekly men's discussion group and information about other resources available in his new community.

A transgender woman from a small, rural community who took the bus to Sacramento just to find other people like her. At the Center, she was referred to our LGBT Counseling program and received info about local support groups for transgender people.

A homeless man who was evicted from his subsidized apartment because of his sexual orientation. At the Center, he received advice and assistance through the Center's free weekly Legal Clinic.

A lesbian, recently separated from her long-time partner, who didn't know how to begin living as a newly single woman. At the Center, she found a weekly women's discussion group where she found sympathetic ears and new friends.

People like those described above call or come through our doors at the Center every single day, and we do everything possible to help.

Now we're asking for your help.

The LGBT people of our five-county region, their friends and allies came together to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to fight Proposition 8. The Center did and continues to do everything it can to protect the rights of LGBT people to marry. We provided meeting and training space for the campaign, phone bank volunteers, photocopy services and served as a gathering place for our community to come together in our post-election grief. But, meanwhile, our own fundraising suffered....

The people we help every day at the Center are the future activists, professionals, parents, business owners and leaders of our community. The Center's services—to youth, to people who are just coming out, to people who are facing hard times or illness—help make our community stronger and healthier. So that the next time we face a fight for our equality, we as a community are ready for that challenge.

Please consider making a year-end to the Center (saccenter.org/onedonation). Or a small monthly pledge as a member of our Quarter Century Club (saccenter.org/images/stories/QCCFlyer.pdf). Contact Bonnie at development@saccenter.org or 916-442-0185, Ext. 102. Every dollar you give is tax deductible and will mean so much to people in our community who need our help!

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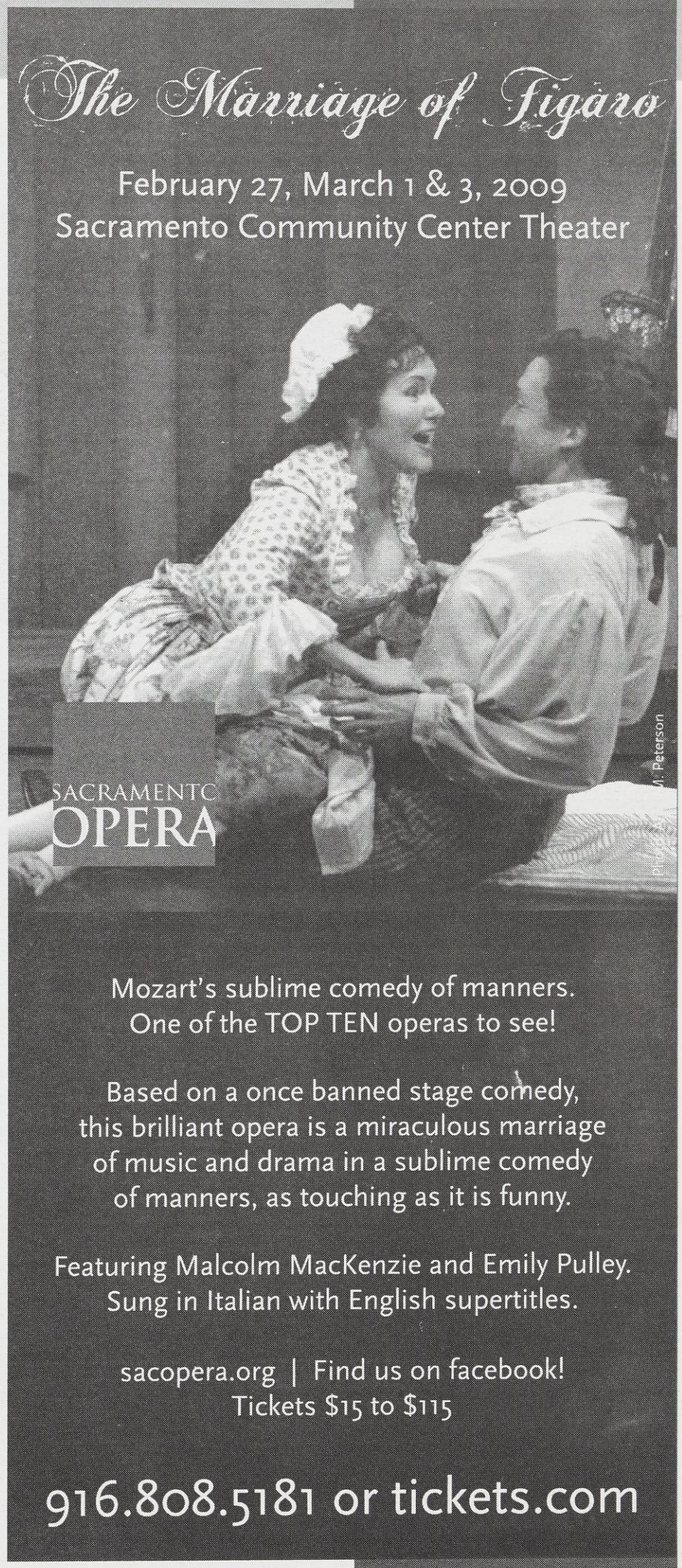
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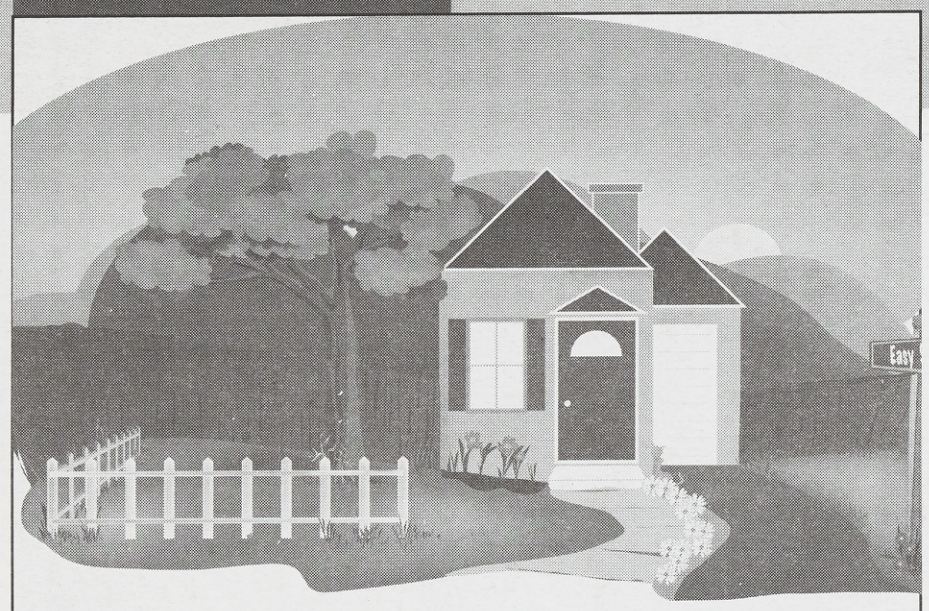

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THE FLIPSIDE OF WARREN-GATE

BY CHRIS CRAIN

BEFORE WE THROW BARACK OBAMA UNDER THE BUS FOR GIVING A PROMINENT ROLE TO A CONSERVATIVE PASTOR, LET'S IMAGINE THE REACTION IF THINGS WERE REVERSED.

What if John McCain had been elected president? I know the idea is a bit of a throwback, considering the shellacking the Arizona septuagenarian got from the Illinois senator with the funny name. But just imagine for a minute.

Conservatives would be gleeful, Sarah Palin would be on cable news 24-7 (actually, that happened anyway), and President-elect McCain would be planning his inauguration. Then imagine, in a conciliatory gesture toward Obama supporters, McCain selects Gene Robinson, the openly gay Episcopal bishop, to give the invocation. In a nod to his own supporters, he chooses the evangelical leader Rick Warren to give the benediction.

We know what the response would be. The Republican right would be furious: What a kick in the teeth from McCain to choose a minister whose elevation was an indictment of their core religious beliefs, and who advocates the destruction of traditional marriage and the murder of millions of aborted fetuses!

Gay rights groups and bloggers, still reeling from Obama's unexpected defeat, would be cheered by McCain's unexpected and courageous attempt at reconciliation. Press releases from progressives would defend McCain against charges of betrayal, chastising conservatives for their intolerance and their insistence on dividing, not unifying. Besides, they would point out, the benediction will come from Rick Warren, who opposes gay marriage and supported Proposition 8 in California.

You see where I'm going here? We know that, happily for us, history unfolded in opposite fashion, and Barack Obama chose Rick Warren to give his inaugural invocation, and civil rights hero Joseph Lowery, who supports full marriage equality, to say the benediction.

Yet the response from many gay bloggers and rights groups has been every bit as reactionary and intolerant as the Republican right would have been toward Robinson. Aren't we better than that?

Can't we see how any meaningful attempt by President-elect Obama to unify the country must include McCain voters, including the 31 million who bought Warren's best-seller "The Purpose-Driven Life," and the additional millions who agree with gay marriage opposition?

Can't we keep our eyes on the prize? This inauguration will install the most pro-gay president, by far, in the history of this country. If reaching out to conservatives buys Obama some additional political capital, that is to our great benefit.

Aren't we the ones who have argued till we are blue in the face for the separation of church and state? It's always been a core part of our movement to oppose any attempt by one set of Americans to demand their religious views receive official favor, or that those with contrary views be excluded.

And yet here we are, basically demanding the president-elect remove one minister from his role in a public ceremony because of his religious beliefs and replace him with one whose beliefs we find more acceptable. Are we proving we are no better, when we have access to power, than our conservative opponents?

The misuse of public ceremonies to show official favor for one group over another runs afoul of the First Amendment's "establishment clause," which prohibits the establishment of an official religion, or from sending signals that some faith groups or views are preferred over others by government.

That's why the courts won't permit sectarian prayers in public schools, and why we no longer have manger scenes at Christmas time in front of city hall. That's also why Roy Moore, the virulently anti-gay chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, was booted from office after he insisted on a Ten Commandments monument in the courthouse rotunda.

To be fair, it is partly Obama and Warren's fault that church and state are entangled here. The president-elect's decision to include inaugural prayers at all, while noncontroversial and in keeping with tradition, opened the door to this debate. What's more, marriage as an institution is a conflation of church and state, "vesting power" in ministers to officiate at a religious ceremony with civil legal effect.

Warren makes matters worse by basing his opposition to gay marriage and support for Proposition 8 on his own religious beliefs about homosexuality. If you think about it, exclusionary marriage laws are also contrary to the First Amendment, since the primary intent—repeated by politicians and pastors alike—is to preserve "the sanctity of marriage." The government ought not be choosing which faith group's views about marriage will be enshrined in the law or excluded from public ceremonies.

Those of us so exorcised by the idea of Warren saying a two-minute prayer would be much better served by arguing for church-state separation, in marriage laws and public ceremonies, than by demanding the president-elect show favor to friendlier religious beliefs.

Chris Crain is former editor of the Washington Blade and five other gay publications and now edits GayNewsWatch.com. He can be reached via his blog at citizencrain.com

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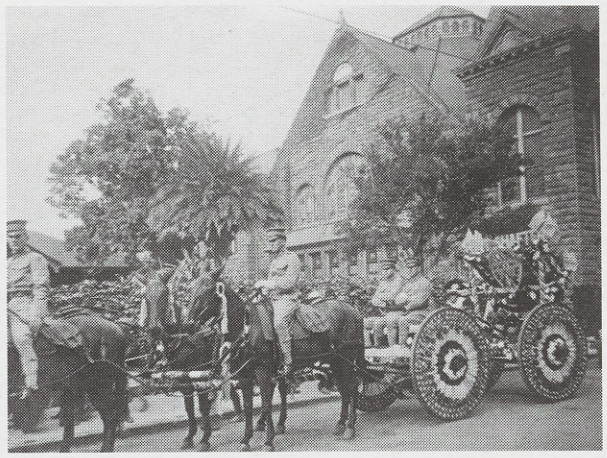

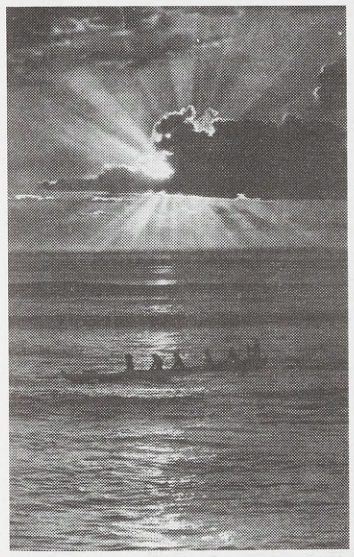

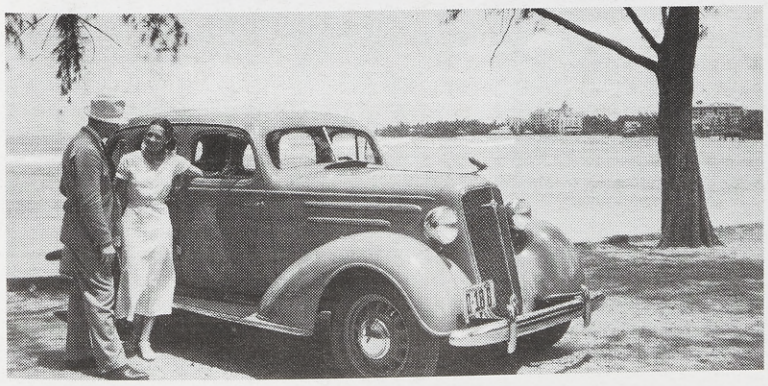

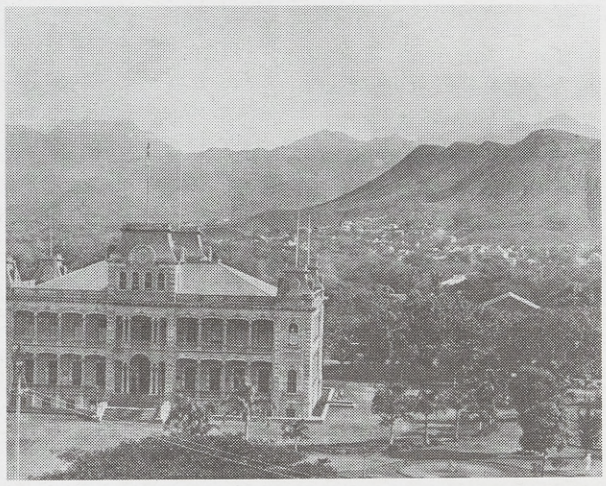

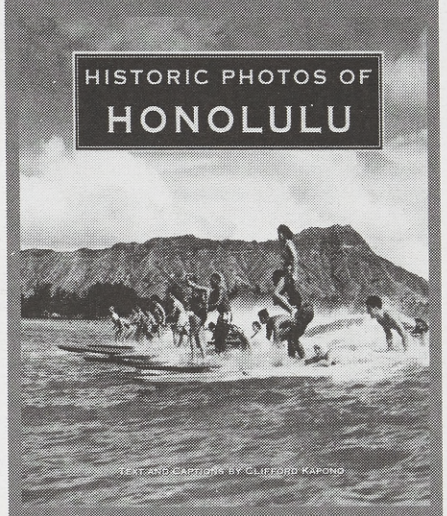

FROM THE OUTRIGGER CANOES OF WAIKIKI TO THE TALL SHIPS OF HONOLULU HARBOR, FROM THE KINGDOM OF HAWAII TO STATEHOOD, THE HISTORY OF HONOLULU THROUGH GOOD TIMES AND BAD HAS ALWAYS PLAYED OUT AGAINST A BACKDROP OF UNCOMMON NATURAL BEAUTY. HOME TO THE ONLY ROYAL RESIDENCE ON AMERICAN SOIL, HONOLULU WITNESSED IN LESS THAN A CENTURY'S TIME THE OVERTHROW OF THE HAWAIIAN MONARCHY, THE RISE OF THE POWERFUL SUGAR BARONS, AN OUTBREAK OF BUBONIC PLAGUE, AND THE DEVASTATING ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR. YET ALWAYS THIS UNIQUE PORT CITY HAS OFFERED AN EASYGOING, WELCOMING SPIRIT, ALONG WITH THE WARM TRADE WINDS AND SOFT OCEAN SWELLS FOR WHICH HONOLULU IS WORLD FAMOUS. HISTORIC PHOTOS OF HONOLULU PRESENTS NEARLY 200 IMAGES FROM THE LATER YEARS OF THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM TO THE EARLY YEARS OF THE FIFTIETH STATE. REPRODUCED IN VIVID BLACK AND WHITE, THE PHOTOS IN THIS VOLUME SHOW THE CITY'S EVOLUTION AND CHANGE, YET WITH A SENSE OF ITS UNCOMMON BEAUTY EVER PRESENT.

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THE HIGHEST CALL

REV. DORETHA WILLIAMS-FLOURNOY, MS IS ORDAINED CLERGY IN METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AND CO-PASTOR OF A CHURCH FOR ALL. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT A CHURCH FOR ALL VISIT ON THE WEB AT ACHURCHFORALL.ORG. COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS TO SPIRIT@ACHURCHFORALL.ORG OR P.O. BOX 162073 SACRAMENTO CA 95816-2073.

So what did you do this holiday season? I spent my time connecting with family and friends, hibernating and getting cozy. I used this time to center myself and feed my needs. I tried to ascribe to the traditional themes of good will toward all by donating toys, feeding the homeless and spreading holiday cheer. But the truth is I did all this in the service of preserving myself. Hence the title of this article "Its All About Me". It might seem a little selfish or maybe self centered; but the truth is if I don't love myself I cannot possibly love or serve others.

Let's face it folks we are experiencing tough times. As I look toward 2009 I see more sacrifice and for some more pain as we ride out this difficult time. The only solution as I see it is to follow the recommendation of biblical scripture which commands us to love the Lord God with all our heart mind and soul, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Embedded in this love fest is a presumption, a presumption that we love ourselves. That's where I think we should focus as the world falls into economic chaos.

Loving myself will insulate me from the option of self destructive behavior that may arise as a temptation during desperate moments. Loving myself will cause me to look for change and hope for the future, while having faith that there's a greater purpose influencing the events of today. I trust that my path will not end here; and that I will survive.

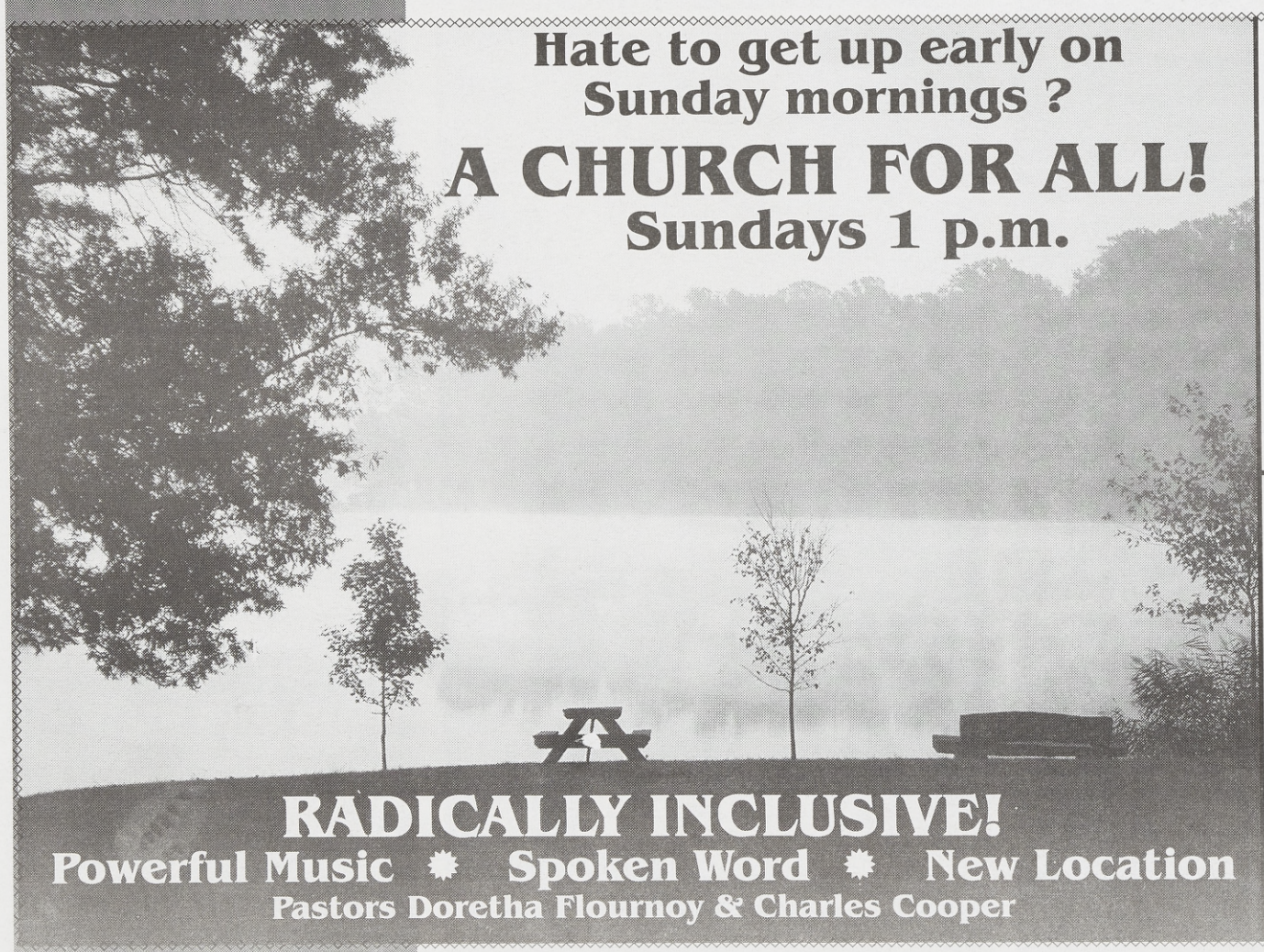
You see, Holy Scripture tells us that God is love. So, when we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of our physical house, our mind, our body, and our souls. Love becomes at home and matures in us, so that we're free of worry, guilt, and shame. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear.
So if God is love, and God lives in me, when I accomplish the goal of loving me the outcomes will resemble that of loving God and loving my neighbors; because that much love can't help but spill over onto "Mary's" lawn (my neighbor). But how does one really go about loving ones self?

It starts with a spiritual acceptance that your life has a purpose. This purpose was established before you were conceived. Before you were born you and God got together in the spirit realm and agreed on the job description. In fact, both you and God knew you would be perfect for the task. However, also in the agreement was a series of life experiences that would shape you, get you ready, and fulfill the plan.

Everything that has and will happen in your life is part of the master plan. With this understanding you can celebrate your successes and forgive yourself for seeming failures. All, both successes and failures, have helped to shape your path and prepare you for the next step in your journey.
I don't know about you but accepting the events of my life as part of an overall plan is a tremendous challenge. I feel compelled to take an inventory of my life. To look at it, examine it, and acknowledge the steps that have gotten me to where I am today. Some of these steps were painful, embarrassing, and disgusting. It's easy to look at my successes. But looking at my supposed failures and accepting them as part of my destiny requires that I remove the shame and guilt associated with them. It requires that I forgive myself for making the choices and committing the act. It requires that I accept the outcome as part of the overall plan for my life.

The acceptance that everything in my past and my future is a scene written by the creator in service of a greater plan for my life also requires that I forgive the perpetrators in my life. It requires that I forgive people who have caused me to suffer, who have disappointed me, who have hurt me leaving a lifetime of wounds to heal. Forgiving these people requires that I acknowledge the roles they played in shaping my destiny. I need to change how I interpret the discomfort.
I need to find the positives in the pain. If I really look at it, I can see how the pain resulted in increased strength and perseverance, a determination to go on, to not give up. A hidden courage emerged to face the unknown and to take risks. I walked away with a sense of my own mortality, treasuring life as never before. My perpetrators are responsible and I have to acknowledge it.

I must remember that the goal is to embrace the meaning and purpose of my life, to see the events of my life as interconnected. Helping me to understand that what appears to be a series of random events are part of a greater plan.
This awareness will help me learn to ease into change, to be gentle with myself during times of disappointment, to see the imperfections in others as evidence of a greater plan in their lives as well. I feel comfort in knowing that ultimately everything will work out just as planned.
In the future, we'll spend more time exploring how to love ourselves. It is very powerful and may take some of us more effort and practice to implement. But in the end, we will all be better because of it. I look forward to traveling this journey with you.
Happy New Year!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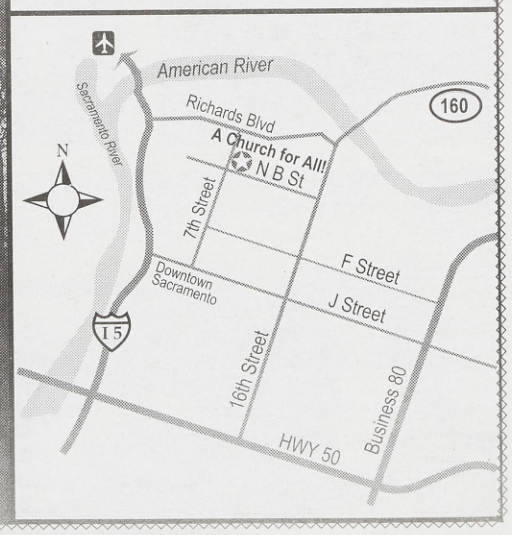

EARTH TALK

I've noticed that bamboo is very trendy right now, apparently—in part—for environmental reasons. Can you enlighten?

Bamboo has a long history of economic and cultural significance, primarily in East Asia and South East Asia where it has been used for centuries for everything from building material to food to medicine. There are some 1,000 different species of bamboo growing in very diverse climates throughout the world, including the southeastern United States.

Bamboo's environmental benefits arise largely out of its ability to grow quickly—in some cases three to four feet per day—without the need for fertilizers, pesticides or much water. Bamboo also spreads easily with little or no care. In addition, a bamboo grove releases some 35 percent more oxygen into the air than a similar-sized stand of trees, and it matures (and can be replanted) within seven years (compared to 30-50 years for a stand of trees), helping to improve soil conditions and prevent erosion along the way. Bamboo is so fast-growing that it can yield 20 times more timber than trees on the same area.

Today, heightened consumer environmental awareness has given sales of bamboo flooring, clothing, building materials and other items a huge boost.

As an attractive and sturdy alternative to hardwood flooring, bamboo is tough to beat. According to Pacific Northwest green building supplier Ecohaus, bamboo—one of the firm's top selling flooring options—is harder, more moisture resistant and more stable than even oak hardwoods. Ecohaus carries both the EcoTimber and Teragren brands of bamboo, and ships worldwide.

Bamboo is also making waves in the clothing industry as an eco-chic and functional new fabric. Softer than cotton and with a texture more akin to silk or cashmere, bamboo clothes naturally draw moisture away from the skin, so it's great for hot weather or for sweaty workouts. It also dries in about half the time as cotton clothing.

Some critics point out that the process of converting bamboo to fabric can take a heavy environmental toll, with the most cost-effective and widespread method involving a harsh chemical-based hydrolysis-alkalization process followed by multi-phase bleaching. The Green Guide counters, though, that bamboo still has a much lower environmental impact than pesticide-laden conventional cotton and petroleum-derived nylon and polyester fabrics. Consumers interested in trying out bamboo clothing should look for the Bamboosa and EcoDesignz labels, two of the leaders in the fast-growing sector of green fashion.

Bamboo is also making inroads into the paper industry, though there are fears that too fast a transition there would threaten ecologically diverse bamboo forests across Southeast Asia and elsewhere. The Earth Island Institute, among other groups concerned about forest loss due to paper consumption, would instead like to see more research into using agricultural waste to make paper instead of wood pulp or bamboo. Regardless, bamboo in all its forms might one day soon be one of the most important plants in the world.

CONTACTS: Ecohaus, ecohaus.com; The Green Guide, thegreenguide.com; Bamboosa, bamboosa.com; EcoDesignz, ecodesignz.com; Earth Island Institute, earthisland.org.

Dear EarthTalk: It is starting to get colder and I'm eager to try out the fireplace in our new home, but we don't want to create health or environmental problems. Are there materials that would be more eco-friendly to burn in a fireplace than regular firewood?

Burning wood may be humanity's oldest way of generating heat—and in the home it definitely creates a nice ambience. But it has its downside. According to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, wood smoke "contains toxic carbon monoxide, smog-causing nitrogen oxides, soot, fine particles, and a range of other chemicals and gases that can cause or worsen serious health problems, particularly among children, pregnant women, and people with breathing difficulties."

The Children's Health Environmental Coalition (CHEC) concurs, citing a raft of studies that show how children living in wood-burning households experience "higher rates of lung inflammation, breathing difficulties, pneumonia, and other respiratory diseases." For its part, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency warns that those with congestive heart failure, angina, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema or asthma should avoid wood smoke if possible. Wood smoke is also bad for the outdoors environment, contributing to smog, acid rain and other problems.

One greener alternative to burning firewood in a fireplace is to burn wood pellets, which are made from sawdust and other lumber byproducts that would have otherwise been landfilled and gone to waste. These specially formulated tiny logs burn very efficiently and almost completely—largely because there is little moisture content—so there are fewer pollutants to escape into the air inside or out. You need a pellet stove to burn wood pellets, though, or a fireplace insert to handle them safely. (Such an insert employs an igniter to fire the pellets, a blower to fan the fire, and an augur that pours pellets into the flames. Together they obviate the need to open the stove doors—and let pollutants into your living room—to feed the fire.)

Another way to reduce emissions from an existing fireplace is to go for a gas insert, which would burn either liquid propane (from a swappable tank) or piped-in natural gas. These inserts draw in air to oxygenate the fire and channel smoke outside, either up the chimney or through a vent. CHEC warns, though, that hearth fires, even with an insert, cannot heat large spaces as efficiently as free-standing wood, pellet or gas stoves. Given, then that fireplaces are typically of more value for aesthetic purposes than heating efficiency, it might not be worth investing time and money into an insert. Using the primary heat source for your home (your furnace) and burning a candle or three in your fireplace might be the most efficient way to stay warm but still enjoy the ambience of live flames in your fireplace.

If none of these alternatives make sense for you, remember to get your fireplace checked regularly for backdrafts, leaks or cracks that could bring extra pollution into your home. Also, make sure to get a chimney sweep in every few years to make sure your chimney isn't blocked up with creosote which could lead to increased indoor air pollution. And if you're putting in a new fireplace—or an insert—make sure to get a qualified professional to do the work, as proper set-up could be the difference between sickness and health as you and your loved ones cozy up around the fire this holiday season.

CONTACTS: Massachusetts DEP, mass.gov/dep/; Children's Health Environmental Coalition (CHEC), checnet.org.

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BARS

Badlands Dance Bar: Mon - Sat 4pm to 2am, Sun 2pm to 2am, 2003 K St., 916.448.8790, sacbadlands.com

BoJangles: 18+, 1119 21st St. (Moving Next To Headhunters Soon)

Bolt Bar: Leather/Cowboy/Bear, Open 5pm-2am Mon - Fri, 2pm-2am Sat and Sun, 2560 Boxwood St., sacbolt.com

Club 21: 1119 21st St.

Depot Video Bar: 2001 K St., 916-441-6823, Mon - Fri 4pm - 2am, Sat and Sun 2pm - 2am, thedepot.net

FACES Nightclub: 2000 K St., 916-448-7798, faces.net

Mercantile Saloon: 1928 L St., 916.447-0792

Headhunters/ROK: Restaurant, Bar Service until 2am, 1930 K Street, headhuntersonk.com

BUSINESS

Rainbow Chamber of Commerce: Business association promoting networking within the gay and lesbian business community and its supporters. rainbowchamber.com

Valley Rainbow Pages: A directory of GLBT-owned and GLBT-friendly businesses in the Greater Sacramento Valley. vrp.info

FAMILY

Camp it Up: (August 3-10) A family camp known for one-of-a-kind gay family vacations, we respect and celebrate all unique families. www.campitup.org

Camp Lavender Hill: A week-long summer camp for children, ages 9-14, of LGBT families. (2008 camp date has passed). camplavenderhill.org

Lesbian Families: A forum for Lesbian couples with children. geocities.com/lesbianfamilies/index.html

Sacramento PFLAG: Promotes health and well-being of LGBT persons, families and friends. Meets the third Tues. of each month at 7:30pm, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Mark's Way. 916-978-0410, pflagsacramento.org

FESTIVALS

Sacramento Pride: (June) Annual Pride celebration for Sacramento, hosted by the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian center. sacramentopride.org

Rainbow Festival: (Aug. 29 - 31, 2008) Annual LGBT street faire over Labor Day Weekend. Rainbow Festival is Run by CGNIE and takes place at 20th & K Sts. rainbowfestival.com

Sac. International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival: (Oct. 9-11, 2008) Annual LGBT film festival takes place over 5 days. siglff.org

Sac. Earth Day: Annual Festival coordinated by Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS), 909 12th Street, Suite 100, 916-444-0022, sacramentoearthday.net

GALLERIES

Crocker Art Museum: The longest continuously operating art museum in the West founded 1885. crockerartmuseum.org

Kennedy Gallery: 2110 K St. Tues.-Sat. Noon to 6pm and by Appointment. mmkgallery.com

HIV | AIDS

Breaking Barriers: Provides a wide range of services for people living with HIV. 2200 21st St., 916-447-2437, breakingbarriers-sacramento.org

Capital City AIDS Fund:
Raises money for HIV/AIDS services in the Sac. area. CCAF's activities include Oscar® Night (Feb. 22, 2009),

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NorCal AIDS Challenge (May 15-18, 2009), and Sacramento Valley AIDS Run Walk (Sept.. 14, 2008). capcityaidsfund.org

CARES: HIV/AIDS health clinic, outreach, education and prevention. Free, rapid HIV testing M-F 9 am to 5 pm. 1500 21st St., 916-443-3299, caresclinic.org

Golden Rule Services: A minority based organization that resolves health, education, employment and criminal justice disparities in People of Color communities through culturally competent programs and resources. 4433 Florin Road, Suite 760. 916-427-GOLD, goldenrules.info

NorCal AIDS Challenge: (May 15-18, 2009) A 4-day, 330 mile bike ride to raise funds and awareness for HIV/AIDS norcalaidschallenge.net

Sacramento Valley AIDS Run/Walk: Sept. 14, 2008. 916-448-1110, sacvalleyaidsrunwalk.org

Sac. Valley Pozabilities: HIV+ social group. sacvalleypozabilities@yahoo.com, PO Box 161871, Sacramento, CA 95816-1871

Sierra Hope: Provides support for people with HIV & AIDS. Sierra HOPE, 1168 Booster Way, P.O. Box 159, Angels Camp, CA, 95222, 209.736.6792, sierrahope.org

Sunburst Projects: Providing support to families with children who are living with HIV/AIDS. 1025 19th Street, Suite 1A, 916-440-0889, sunburstprojects.org

IMPERIAL COURT

Court Of The Great Northwestern Imperial Empire (CGNIE): Parent organization for Sacramento's Court, La Kish Hayworth Memorial Fund, Fairy Godfathers' Fund and Rainbow Festival. myspace.com/cgnie

LAW | POLITICS

Lambda Letters: Urges elected officials to enact and support legislation that promotes social, economic, and human rights for the LGBT community; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; women; and people of low economic status. lambdaletters.org

SAC Legal: Association of attorneys, legal professionals, and legislative advocates, affiliated with the Sacramento County Bar Assoc. that promotes equality the LGBT community. saclegal.org

California Capital Political Action Committee (CAP/PAC): A non-partisan, political action committee formed to provide a voice for the LGBT community in the political process. cappac.net

Green Party of Sacramento County: P.O. Box 2082, Sacramento, CA 95812, 916-484-4000, sacgreens.org

Libertarian Party of Sac.:
P.O. Box 3003, Orangevale, CA 95662, lpsacramento.com

Log Cabin Republicans: logcabin.org/logcabinca/sacramento_chapter.html

Stonewall Democrats of Sac.: Helping elect qualified, openly LGBT people and Democratic candidates who support equal rights for LGBT. P O Box 161623 Sacramento, CA 95816-1623, 916-441-1787, sacstonewall.org

MARRIAGE - PENDING

Sacramento County Clerk Recorders Office, 600 8th St @ F St., ccr.saccounty.net

NEW MEDIA

Being Gay Today: Sacramento's oldest, still-running GLBT TV show. Comcast Cable. Access Sac, channel 17. Thurs. 10pm, Now on myspace and youtube. beinggaytoday.com

Checkered Nation Video Show: A gay-focused internet chat show in and around Sacramento. checkerednation.com

Transponder Radio: Internet radio show covering many transgender issues. transponder.com

PERFORMANCE

A Small Difference Women's Choral Ensemble: Women, under the direction of Sage Brown, dedicated to performing music with a message. smalldifference.org

Sac. Gay Men's Chorus: Produces up to three concerts a year, and performs throughout the year at events in and around Sacramento. sgmchorus.org

Sacramento DanceSport: The Largest Same-Sex Dance Program in the United States. Classes, performances and competition. sacdancesport.com

True Colors Women's Chorus: Women building a community through their love of music. 877-758-7827, truecolorschorus.org

RELIGION

A Church For All: Fosters an all encompassing spiritual community. 721 North B Street, Sacramento, CA, 95816-2073, 916-502-5603, spirit@achurchforall.org. achurchforall.org

Atheists and Other Freethinkers: Promoting the civic understanding and acceptance of atheism in our community. aofonline.org

Atonement Lutheran: Welcomes all people, regardless of race, language, previous denominational affiliation, gender, or sexual orientation. at-one.org

Grove of the Oak: An eclectic group of Druids, Wiccans, and other Pagans who gather twice a month and on the eight annual Celtic seasonal festivals, to share community, perform ritual, create magic, and support each other in our chosen earth-honoring pagan paths. groveoftheoak.org

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer: LGBT affirming and supports the Lutheran Lesbian & Gay Ministries. lcorsac.org

Pioneer Congregational Church: LGBT open and affirming. 2700 L Street, 916-443-3727, uccwebsites.net/pioneercongsacramentoca.html

St. Mark's United Methodist Church: A Christian community welcoming a diverse congregation. stmarksumc.com

St. Paul's Episcopal Church: A Christian community that embraces one and all to worship together at God's table. 1430 J Street, 916.446.2620, stpaulssacramento.org

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral: LGBT affirming. Christian worship, life and ministry. 2620 Capitol Ave., 916-446-2513, trinitycathedral.org

Valley Ministries: Existing to communicate God's love and accept all people. 4118 Coronado Ave, Stockton. 209-464-5244, valleyministries.com

Westminster Church Sacramento: A community of faith accepting all people solely on the basis of their affirmation of faith in Jesus Christ. westminsac.org

RESOURCES

GaySacramento.org: Interactive online resource for LGBT Sac. news, events and community resources. gaysacramento.org

Lavender Library: Serves the LGBT community as a lending library and archives as well as houses LGBT activities. Loans books, periodicals, DVDs (general and erotica), to members. lavenderlibrary.org

outsacramento.com: Internet links, photos, message board and news for LGBT Sacramento. outsacramento.com

Sac. Gay & Lesbian Center: Serving the LGBT of Greater Sacramento and surrounding counties, providing facilitated discussion groups for LGBT youth and adults, counseling, legal services, HIV prevention and education services and programs for LGBT seniors, families and people living with HIV/AIDS. saccenter.org

SENIORS

Senior Gays: A resource for the senior LGBT and friendly community. SeniorGays.org

SOCIAL GROUPS

Capital City Squares: A square dance club for LGBT people who want to learn and enjoy Modern Western Square Dancing. iagsdc.org/capitalcity

Males Au Naturel Sacramento (MANS) - A gay/bi male naturist organization for men who enjoy social naturism in positive. groups.yahoo.com/group/malesaunaturelsacramento
Natomas LGBTQ: A group to connect Natomas area queers for in-person social activities. An alternative to the bar scene. natomaslgbtq.wordpress.com

Sac Woof Society: A social group for bears and bear lovers. sacwoofsociety.net

Gay Men's Book Group: A literary group for Sac. gay men. Meets once a month (usually 3rd Wednesday). groups.yahoo.com/group/sacgaybookgroup

Pink Pistols - LGBT group with an interest in shooting sports and self defense. pinkpistols.org/local/sacramento

Sacramento Professional Men's Group: Alternative lifestyle men who get together for networking and social gatherings with other professional men. groups.yahoo.com/group/Sacramento ProfessionalMensGroup

Sac. Valley Bears: A social and charitable organization providing bears and bear admirers. sacvalleybears.org

Sac. Valley Knights: Northern California motorcycle club whose membership consists solely of those who own and ride motorcycles. valleyknights.org

Sac. Valley LeatherCorps: Gay men's and women's organization seeking to educate and mentor members of the Leather/BDSM communities through classes and other club activities. svlclub.org

SPORTS

CHEER Sacramento: Volunteer cheerleading squad now cheering at games for West Sacramento Wolverines. cheersacramento.org

Frontrunners of Sacramento: Social group inclusive of all types, sizes, dispositions, and levels of activities with running and running events as a main focus. frsac.org

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans: Lesbians and gay men who enjoy outdoor adventures and camaraderie. motherlode.sierraclub.org/gls

Gay Sport Bike Riders of Sacramento - Gay sport bike enthusiasts who meet, post rides and related links. Serious enthusiasts 18+ are welcome. autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/SAC_GSR

River City Bowlers: Gay and Lesbian Bowling league. Winter league runs from Sept..-May and averages 22 teams per season. Summer

league lasts 12-13 weeks beginning in June. rivercitybowlers.homestead.com/about.html

Sac. Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association (SCCGRA): Sacramento's gay rodeo chapter. capitalcrossroads.org

Sacred City Derby Girls (SCDG): Sacramento Women's Roller Derby team. sacredcityderbygirls.com

THEATRE | FILM

Lambda Players: LGBT theatre company now in its 19th Season. 1028 R Street, 916-444-8229, lambdaplayers.com

24th Street Theatre: Hosts Runaway Stage which does musicals and larger well-known plays. Facilities for large meetings, lectures, film screenings and performances Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th Street, 916-452-3005, sierra2.org

Sacramento Theatre Company: Professionally produced contemporary and traditional theatrical works. 1419 H Street, Box Office: 888-4-STC-TIX, sactheatre.org

Capital Stage - Capital Stage, Delta King: 1000 Front Street, www.capstage.org

The B Street Theatre - 2711 B St., 916-443-5300, bstreettheatre.org

Mondavi Center - 530-754-ARTS, One Shields Ave. Davis, mondaviarts.org
Shiny Object: Weekly showings of independent films and Rocky Horror Picture Show. 600 4th St. West Sacramento, shiny-object.com

The Crest Theatre: 1013 K St., 916-44-CREST. Shows independent and GLBT films. Often hosts Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. thecrest.com

TRANS SUPPORT

Sac. Gay & Lesbian Center Trans Support: Counseling services available for transgender people. 916-442-0185, Ext. 102. 1927 L St., saccenter.org

Kings of Drag: Performance troupe of women dressing in male drag. kingsofdrag.com

Sac. Gender Alliance: Provides recreational and educational needs of the trans community, their spouses, family members and related professionals. 916-442-0185, Ext. 141, saccenter.org

Sigma Delta Gamma "Sac. Delta Girls": A chapter of Tri-Ess, an educational, social and support group for heterosexual cross-dressers, their spouses or partners and their families. 916-359-2328, geocities.com/Sigma_Delta_Gamma

WOMEN

Adventure Out Women: Business networking, social activities, special events and recreational adventures throughout California year-round. adventureoutwomen.com

Lesbian Cancer Support:Meets third Monday of each month at 6:30pm. Bring partners or support people with you. ROXANNE1040@aol.com

Rainbow Womyn (Sac.): Online social group for Womyn. groups.msn.com/RainbowWomynofSacramentoCA

Sac NOW: Feminist news, actions, and opportunities. Meets monthly on the 3rd Thurs., 7pm, at the Hart Senior Center at 915 27th Street (27th & J St.). sacnow.org

Sacto Girls: Lesbian social group for women in the Sacramento and surrounding areas. members.aol.com/sactogirls/index.html

Sisters of Scota Women's Motorcycle Club (SOSWMC): A tightknit sisterhood on women motorcycle riders who plan social events and raise funds for various charities. SOSWMC@hotmail.com, soswmc.org

Sac. Area Lesbian Health Resource Guide: A guide to help lesbians in the greater Sac. area identify and obtain services from providers who are sensitive to the needs of lesbian, bi and trans women. saclesbianhealth.com

Single Lesbians of Sac.: A community of single lesbians in the Sac. area interested in meeting other lesbians for the purpose of dating. groups.msn.com/SingleLesbiansofSacramento

Women On Wednesdays: Social discussion/activity group meets each Weds. at the Gay & Lesbian Center, 1927 L St. 7-9pm. Open to lesbian, bi and trans women. saccenter.org

Womyn Over the Rainbow: A group open to lesbian womyn over the age of 40 for the purpose of building friendship. groups.msn.com/WomynOverTheRainbow

YOUTH

CSUS Pride Center: Open to Sac State LGBT students. Lassen Hall 3011, 6000 J Street, 916.278.8720, Email: pride@csus.edu, csus.edu/pride

Delta Lambda Phi: A non-secret, non-hazing, national social fraternity founded by gay men for all men. dlp.org/iota/DLP.htm

Lambda Delta Lambda: Queer-friendly Sisterhood/Sorority social network on campus, accepting of all social identities and backgrounds. ldlucdavis.org/about.htm

Modesto LGBTQ Youth: GLBTQ Youth in Modesto and surrounding areas. myspace.com/lgbtqmodesto

Rainbow Club Of American River College: LGBT students on the American River Campus. geocities.com/arc_glbtqclub

Queer Straight Alliance CSUS: Social/Activist group on campus. myspace.com/queerstraightalliance

RESPECT Sacramento: A grassroots organization dedicated to creating safe schools for all sexual minority people in Sacramento area schools. Meets the second Weds. of the month, 6:30pm at Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. 916-733-2135, RespectSacramento.org

Sac Youth Yahoo Group: Forum for LGBT and friendly youth under 21 years old. sacyouth.net groups.yahoo.com/group/sacyouth

City College LGBT Club: 3835 Freeport Boulevard, 916-558-2111 Advisor: Gayle Pitman, Behavioral & Social Sciences, PitmanG@scc.losrios.edu, wserver.scc.losrios.edu/~glbt/index.html

U.C. Davis LGBT Resource Center: Campus Center for LGBT students. 530-752-2452, lgbcenter.ucdavis.edu

REGIONAL

Amador County GLBTQQ Support Group: Amador County Mental Health - call Mary Pulskamp at 209-223-6412

Bear Watch of Yuba/Sutter & Nevada County: Social group for bear-type gay man, but is not restricted to just bears. bearwatch.us

Central Valley Stonewall Democratic Club: Helps elect qualified, openly LGBT people to public office, as well as Democratic Party candidates that support equal rights for the LGBT community. cvstonewall.org

Diversity R Us: Support group for Yuba City-Marysville GLBT. groups.yahoo.com/group/diversityrus

Foothill Lesbians and Gays Social Network (FLAG): An organization for the LGBT community in the Sierra Foothills of No. Cal. flagamador.webs.com

Gaysonoma.com: Online Guide to events, personals, gay businesses, community organizations, classifieds, for Sonoma County LGBT. gaysonoma.com

"If The Shoe Fits": Gay/lesbian organization in the Foothills of El Dorado County that provides social/recreational activities for members. itsfnews.org

Nevada County Pride: Social network of gays and lesbians in western Nevada County in California. nevadacountypride.org

Out In The Mother Lode: Social network for fun/support among the LGBT in the central sierra foothills. outinthemotherlode.org

PFLAG Sonora/Mother Lode Chapter: Meets on the third Tuesday of Jan., Apr., July, and Oct.r, 6:30pm, at the Tuolumne County Library. Other events scheduled through the year. pflagsonora.org

Rainbow Frontier: A website for LGBT adults in rural/frontier areas of Northeastern California funded Plumas County Public Health Agency, 1-800-801-6330 or 530-283-6358, rainbowfrontier.org

Sierra Gay Men's Network: A newsletter & blog with news of importance the Gay Men

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www.RainbowChamber.com

and their friends in the Sierra Foothills of California. sgmn.org

Sisters of Scota Foothills Chapter: Women's Motorcycle Club who rides mostly in the foothills. soswmcfoothills.org

Solano Pride Center: Support for LGBT of Solano County. Solano Pride Center, 1125 Missouri St., Ste. 203-D, Fairfield, CA 94533, 707-427-2356, solanopride.org

Stanislaus Pride Center:Resources and support for LGBT persons in Stanislaus and surrounding counties. stanpride.org

Stonewall Alliance of Chico: Services and support for LGBT people in Chico and surrounding areas. stonewallchico.org

Western Slope Men's Social Group: Online forum for gay/bi men on/near the Western Slope of the Sierra Nevada's (between Sac. and So. Lake Tahoe). groups.yahoo.com/group/WesternSlopeMensSocialGroup

Yuba-Sutter Unity: Social support, education & community involvement. gayyubasutter.

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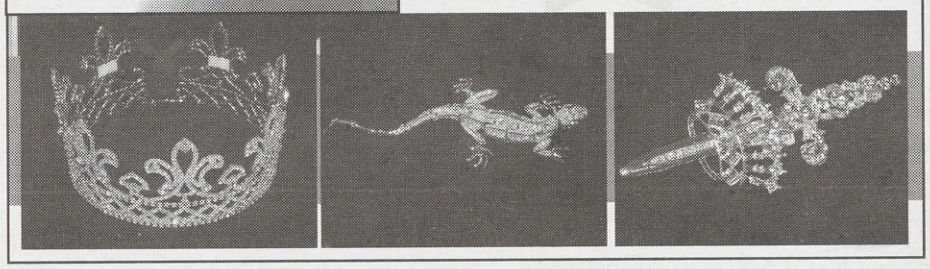

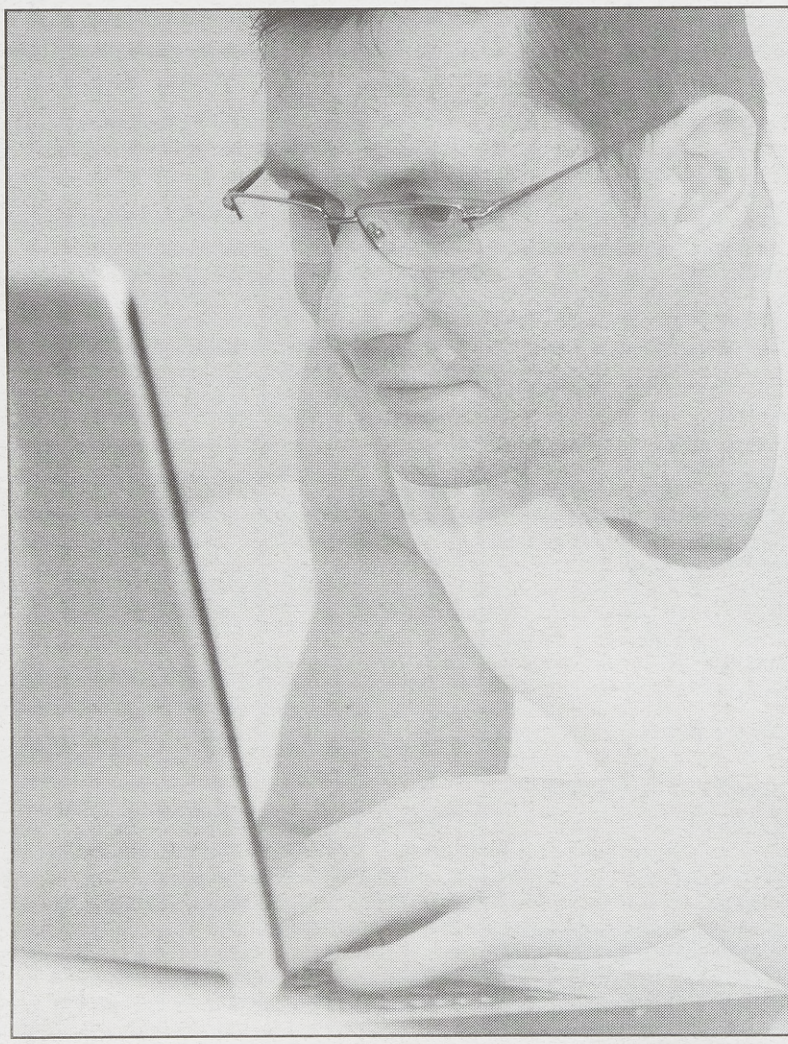

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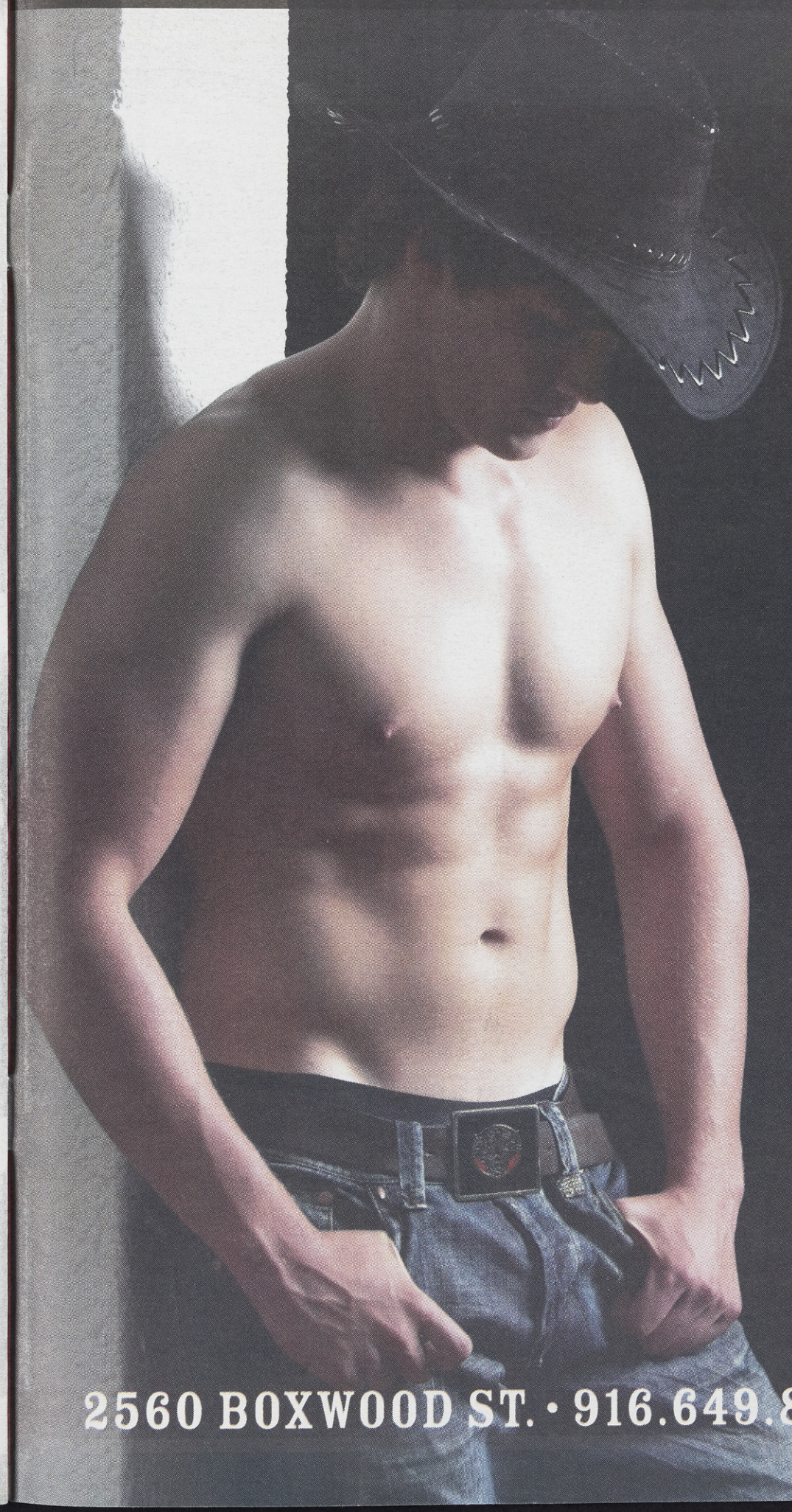

CHRISTMAS EVE
Wednesday, December 24, 2008
It's The Night Before Christmas and you're invited to The BOLT for an evening of DRINK SPECIALS and complimentary hors d'oeuvres! The doors open at 5pm! NO COVER!

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Wednesday, December 31, 2008
Ring in 2009 with your friends at The BOLT! We'll have free hors d'oeuvres, PARTY FAVORS, and CHAMPAGNE at midnight! Win BIG PRIZES in our MIDNIGHT BALLOON DROP! Doors open at 5pm! NO COVER!

GEAR NIGHT
Friday, January 2, 2009
The Sacramento Valley Leathercorps and The BOLT present GEAR NIGHT the first Friday of every month, 8pm to midnight! Gear up and join us! We're looking for folks with leather/latex pants, chaps, vests, shirts, skin gear, uniforms, jackets, boots, harnesses—get the idea? BOOTBLACKING by boy dave! No speeches, no fundraising, and NO COVER!

CAPITAL CROSSROADS COWBOY/COWGIRL SOCIAL
Tuesday, January 13, 2009
The second Tuesday of every month, join the COWBOYS and COWGIRLS of the Sacramento Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association at The BOLT for FREE NACHOS, FREE POOL, and $8 BEER/SODA BUST from 7:30pm to 10:30pm! Proceeds benefit SCCGRA! NO COVER!

SACRAMENTO VALLEY LEATHERCORPS 2009 INAUGURATION
Saturday, January 24, 2009
The BOLT is proud to host the inauguration of the Sacramento Valley Leathercorps 2009 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS! Gear up and join your favorite LEATHER FOLK! The ceremony starts at 8pm! NO COVER!

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